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SHUBAEL BELL, 1766-1819.

THE  
BOSTONIAN  
SOCIETY  
PUBLICATIONS.

VOL. III  
SECOND SERIES



BOSTON  
OLD STATE HOUSE

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MCMXIX

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## CONTENTS

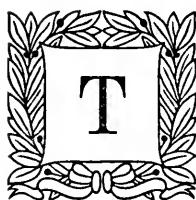
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INTRODUCTORY . . . . .	7
<i>W. K. Watkins</i>	
AN ACCOUNT OF THE TOWN OF BOSTON, WRITTEN IN 1817 . . . . .	15
<i>Shubael Bell</i>	
THE VERY BEGINNINGS OF BOSTON . . . . .	69
<i>Rev. Frederick B. Allen</i>	
THE GREAT STREET TO ROXBURY GATE 1630-1830 .	89
<i>Walter Kendall Watkins</i>	
ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS	
SUBSCRIPTION ASSEMBLY IN 1806 . . . . .	129
NEW DIVISION OF WARDS IN 1805 . . . . .	131
ANTI-BELLRINGING SOCIETY, 1838 . . . . .	136
LINES ON THE DEATH OF SHUBAEL BELL IN 1819	138
INDEX: I. NAMES . . . . .	143
II. PLACES AND SUBJECTS . . . . .	151





## INTRODUCTORY



HE historical sketch in this book printed for the first time, is from a copy procured by the President, Mr. Norcross, and preserved in the Library of the Bostonian Society. The original manuscript is in the Library of the American Antiquarian Society at Worcester. The records of that society show that at a meeting on 23 Oct., 1817 it was voted — “that the thanks of the Society be presented to Shubael Bell, Esq. for his very valuable donation of a series of letters, written by him to a gentleman formerly of Boston, and now resident at Smyrna, giving an account of improvements made in Boston within the last thirty years.” The society held this meeting in the Exchange Coffee House, Boston. With the manuscript Mr. Bell also gave “a large sheet plan of the town,” Hales’ Map of 1814.

The man to whom the letters were written is not now known. At about this time John Walley Langdon and his brother Thomas Walley were in business at Smyrna, both were too young however as the manuscript shows that the person was a loyalist who left Boston in 1775 and an

attendant previously at Christ Church, and a native of Boston.

It was in 1817 that a "Topographical and Historical Description of Boston" was issued by Charles Shaw, Esq. and the title page states it was printed and published by Oliver Spear.

As bearing on the publication the following document in the collections of the New England Historic-Genealogical Society is of interest. It was given by Col. Albert H. Hoyt who obtained it from Robert Clarke the bookseller of Cincinnati.

It was an assignment by Giles E. Weld of Boston, printer, to Thomas Brewer, father of Gardiner Brewer, dated 19 Nov., 1816. He sold to him for \$300 all his right and interest in a certain book "which I am *now printing*" called "*The Picture of Boston*" in all "twelve hundred volumes of said work which I do hereby agree to have finished and completed in sheets by the thirtieth day of November instant." Also his right to all subscriptions subject however "to ye right and claim which Charles Shaw, Esquire, the editor of the said work" had unto the same.

18 April 1817 Thomas Brewer for \$300, paid, assigned all his interest to Charles Shaw. On 15 May, 1817 it was copyrighted in the District of Massachusetts by Oliver Spear.

At a meeting of the Antiquarian Society, 1 Jan. 1817, held at the Exchange Coffee House, Boston, Charles Shaw, Esq.

of Boston was elected a member of the society. He had graduated from Harvard College in 1805.

“Charles Shaw, formerly of Boston, died in Montgomery, Alabama, 1 Nov. 1828.” In his preface Shaw claims “the work is a compilation ‘a thinge (to use the words of old Burton) of mere industrie; a *collection* without wit or invention.’” Descriptions of places, buildings, &c “he sometimes received from such sources that delicacy forbade him to alter if he wished.” Accounts of societies and buildings “are for the most part inserted in the words in which they appeared in print, or were communicated in writing.”

A comparison of the description of Christ church in Shaw’s History and in Bell’s manuscript shows the wording to be almost identical.

Bell wrote his first letter to Smyrna, 20 Apr., 1817 and two days previous Brewer had released to Shaw his interest, in a book called “The Picture of Boston.”\* The name was changed later and the title page, with the copyright on the back of title, preface and contents, in all a twelve page signature, was printed after 15 May, 1817.

It is certain that the matter about Christ Church was written by Bell and he no doubt was helpful to Shaw and in turn the Shaw project may have been the incentive for Bell to write the letters.

Shubael Bell was born in Boston in 1766 the sixth of the

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\* Shaw in his account of the County Gaol page 226 writes — “But as we are to give a *Picture* of Boston, the drawing must be complete.”

nine children of John and Rachel (Briggs) Bell who were married at the New North in 1753. He was apprenticed to his father's trade of carpenter or housewright. In 1789 he was married to his first wife Joanna Smith Masters and for about ten years worked at his trade. In 1797 he was made officer of police at \$40 quarterly and a deputy sheriff. He had joined the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company in 1791 and was also in the Suffolk Regiment of the militia, a lieutenant from 1790-8 of Capt. Benjamin Russell's Company of Boston.

As a mechanic he met with others at the Green Dragon and later at Concert Hall in 1794-5 and 2 June 1795 became one of the original members of the Massachusetts Charitable Mechanic Association. He was also an original member of the Board of Trustees of the Massachusetts Charitable Fire Society serving for twenty five years until his death in 1819. He was a member of the British Charitable Society and president of the Irish Charitable Society.

As deputy sheriff he was also in 1810 jailer of the "County Gaol" an old stone building situated between the old and new Court Houses and occupying the ground where formerly stood a wooden building called the "Debtor's Gaol." It was 90 X 23 and four stories high. The upper story, appropriated to liberty debtors, had been added just previous to 1817 at the instigation of Mr. Bell.

As his membership in various charitable societies shows his interest in his fellowman, he applied it practically in

bettering the condition of prisoners and especially in having them fed in a civilized manner and not as animals as had been done previously.

His account of Christ Church shows his interest in that institution of which he was senior warden. He is entombed under the porch in tomb 9 in which are also some of his ancestors removed from Copps Hill. He married (2) 6 Oct. 1808, Ann sister of Samuel H. Hewes and daughter of S. Hewes. He had no children by either wife. One of the most interesting of his activities was his membership in the Masonic fraternity. He became a member of St. John's Lodge, Royal Arch Chapter and Commandery. The Society is indebted to St. John's Lodge for the use of the plate of Mr. Bell's portrait. It is taken from a painting hanging in the Grand Lodge room at the Masonic Temple. Mr. Bell held the office of Senior Grand Warden. The painting is a copy of one by John Johnston, the Boston portrait painter, a century ago. The original came down to the wife of Rev. Joshua Young, a grand niece of Shubael Bell.

As senior warden of Christ Church Mr. Bell's funeral eulogy was delivered there by Samuel L. Knapp on 8 June, 1819 before St. John's Lodge.

This address was printed and contains a just estimate of the virtues of the deputy sheriff, especially his relations to the unfortunate in his care.

WALTER K. WATKINS.

BOSTON, 24 Dec., 1919.



AN ACCOUNT OF  
THE TOWN OF BOSTON  
WRITTEN IN 1817

BY  
SHUBAEL BELL

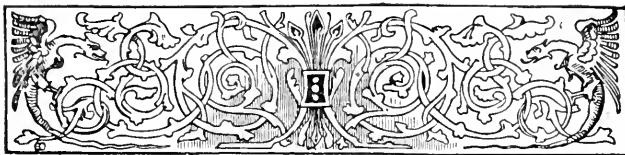
TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE ANTIQUARIAN  
SOCIETY

Gentlemen,

The consideration that the following pages, contain a record of events, which may have been overlooked by others, and probably would soon be forgotten, induces me to comply with the request of a valued Friend, to place them at your disposal, with the request, that should you publish any portion of them, you will not mention —

THE AUTHOR.

[The following is written in Isaiah Thomas's hand.] Presented to the American Antiq<sup>n</sup>. Society, Oct<sup>r</sup>. 1817, By the Author Shubael Bell, of Boston, Deputy Sheriff.



# AN ACCOUNT OF THE TOWN OF BOSTON WRITTEN IN 1817

BY SHUBAEL BELL

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FROM THE MANUSCRIPT IN THE POSSESSION OF THE AMERICAN  
ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY, WORCESTER, MASS.

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**T**HE following pages are extracts of letters, written in haste, at short notice, and without any previous design or arrangement, to a gentleman formerly resident at, and a native of Boston; but who has been absent for more than thirty years.

Dear Sir,

My William arrived a few days since greatly debilitated. The season in which he made his voyage from your hospitable shore to this Country, is too rough and cold at all times for the Constitution of an invalid; but his passage was marked by unusual severity and tempestuous weather, which his feeble health was ill able to support. He is now unable to converse, but at short intervals, and wholly unable to write.\*

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\* "Saturday, April 12. Arrived brig Havre-Packet, Twinning, of Bath, 100 days from Smyrna, cargo Turkey carpets, raw silks, drugs,

When he has strength to utter a few words, he fails not to speak of the kind attentions he received from you and your family, and begs me to assure you, that he entertains a grateful sense of all your civilities, and that were he in health, he could not describe in words, the feelings of his heart. You, my dear sir, have seen a little of my adopted Son, and with the feelings of a parent, can judge of mine. Never, I think, was there a young man, whose purity of heart, amiable disposition and correct deportment (which have distinguished him from his childhood) more powerfully recommended him to the attention of men of cultivated feelings and knowledge of the world.

This perhaps you may consider as the expression of affection; I say nothing of his intellectual powers for of those you have had some knowledge, and cannot blame *me* for saying, what others have said of him, that his mind was of no ordinary cast. Thoughtful, reflective, studious and honestly ambitious to excel in whatever was praiseworthy; he was respected by his teachers and his classmates for his acquirements, and beloved by them all for his benevolent feelings and amiable qualities.

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opium, rasins &c. Passenger, Mr W<sup>m</sup> Hammatt of Boston. The Havre Packet has experienced heavy gales in the archipalago and Mediterranean seas. Left no American vessels at Smyrna”

(Chronicle 14 Apr 1817)

In 1809 Shubael Bell was made guardian in Boston of William, under 14 years, the son of William Hammatt late of London.

O may that health which your kindness laboured to restore, be hereafter confirmed, and distant be the day, when those virtues shall be lost to Society. He is however in the hands of Him who governs and controuls all things, and whose designs are always wise and good.

My prayers are for his recovery, but the LORD's will be done. If my hopes and expectations respecting him be disappointed by the decree of Providence, I hope I shall submit to it with that resignation, which becomes a believer in our blessed Redeemer, and the doctrines of immortality. I hope, however, he will be again restored to health, and that all my expectations of his usefulness will be fully realized. William has often told me, that you retained a strong attachment to your native Town, and would doubtless be gratified with an account of its present situation. His suggestion would have been sufficient to induce me to attempt that, which under other circumstances I should have declined to perform, but no endeavor of mine however feeble, shall be wanting to repay that kindness, which you so affectionately shewed to William.\*

What I shall describe you may depend on is correct; and however imperfect my account, you will please to receive it as a small acknowledgement of the obligations I owe you for civilities to him, and as a mark of esteem from one towns-

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\* "In this town, on Wednesday evening, Mr William Hammatt, aged 20. Funeral this afternoon at 6 o'clock from the house of Mr Bell, Court Street." (Centinel 24 May 1817)

man to another. To render my hasty account more plain and intelligible, I send you a map of Boston taken a few years since, which is tolerably correct; but the progress of our improvements is so rapid, that some alterations have become necessary, and I have marked with the pen the deficiencies of the engraver, and subsequent changes, so far as time and information would allow.\*

Should this hasty sketch ever reach you, with the books and papers which accompany it, a single line forwarded by the first opportunity informing me of the fact, and your personal welfare, will be received, by your unknown friend.

Boston April 20th. 1817.

The first and most material step towards the improvement of Boston, was the increasing the number of avenues by bridges connecting it with the neighboring towns.

Charlestown Bridge, extending from the bottom of Prince street to the opposite shore in Charlestown, greatly facilitated the travelling to the westerly parts of the State. This Bridge was considered of so much importance, that in the ceremony of opening it for public use, the Laureat of that festive day, styled it the “World’s first bridge.”† The idea

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\* Hales’ map of Boston in 1814 a copy of which Mr Bell gave the Antiquarian Society with his manuscript.

† Meandering to the Deep,  
Majestick Charles shall weep of War no more.  
Famed as the Appian Way.  
The Worlds first Bridge, To Day

of extending a wooden bridge over the deep and rapid channel of Charlestown, was considered by the Legislature and many judicious people as the chimera of a heated speculative imagination.

The design however was completed, and the piles have for years resisted the force of the ice and the current.

The construction of this bridge, so honorable to the architects and projectors, has led others to attempt similar plans both in Boston and other parts of the United States.\*

Craigies or Canal Bridge, connects that part of Boston called Barton's point, with a point of land in Cambridge called Lechmere's point.

This Bridge is built on a plan like the one already noticed, but is somewhat improved by a covering of timber overspread with clay and gravel in the manner in which our wharves were formerly constructed. This improvement adds to the durability of the work and the ease of the traveller.

On Barton's point, near the end of the Bridge is the Almshouse, a spacious, convenient and elegant edifice, accommo-

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All Nations shall convey  
From Shore to Shore.

(Fifth verse of a poem by Thomas Dawes, jun. sung by Mr Rea and other gentlemen, accompanied with a band of music, after the fourth toast, 19 June 1786, at the opening of Charlestown Bridge.)

\* For an account of Lemuel Cox the builder of the Charlestown, Malden, Essex and bridges in Ireland see "Lemuel Cox, Bridge Builder and Inventor." Boston, 1907.

dated with gardens, yards and baths, and is highly honorable to the town of your nativity.

From Craigies bridge at some distance from the Western end another bridge, on the same model, has lately been built, leading at right angles to the State prison in Charlestown.

It was my intention merely to give you a sketch of the improvements in Boston; but you see I have landed on the opposite shore, and you will readily conceive that the adjacent towns have advanced in proportion with the metropolis. Lechmere's point has become a village, I might almost say a shire town, for it is the site of a county Gaol and Court house; It also contains a manufactory of Glass and porcelain ware.

Cambridge Bridge crosses the river from the point of land where the *pest house* stood, to that part of Cambridge formerly called Inman's farm.\*

From the old townhouse, at the head of King street, over this *bridge* to the colleges, the road is nearly on a straight line, and the distance is about three miles. This Bridge is probably the longest in the world. The opening of it has brought into use, all the vacant lands and pastures in the west part of the town (it has also equally benefited the opposite shore, where is a considerable village, denominated Cambridge port. It contains two large brick Meeting

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\*The Pest house was off Southac now West Cedar Street, Boston.

houses and a large population. . . . The Streets are broad and laid out at right angles, the houses generally spacious and accommodated with gardens, there are many stores and manufactories and it is a place of considerable business.)

Cambridge street, leading from the head of Queen street (now Court street) to the end of the bridge, is broad and convenient, and completely lined with Stores, shops and dwelling houses. In this section of the town are many lumber wharves and West India goods stores, which accommodate the Country traders; Here also is a large brick Market house, built by Samuel Parkman Esq<sup>r</sup> one of our most opulent Merchants, and a highly respectable citizen.\*— From the end of the bridge, on the margin of the bay southwardly, a way has been constructed called Charles street, terminating with pleasant street

It is built chiefly of earth taken from the range of hills† on the north side of the Common, and occupies a space which you well know was once covered with salt water. On this Street a large brick meeting house has been erected by the Babbists,‡ and a range of convenient brick dwelling houses. Where towered the hills above refered to, are spacious streets, called Mount Vernon, lined by superb mansions, the residence of our most wealthy and respectable citizens

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\*On the east corner of Cambridge and North Grove Streets, afterwards used as an organ factory.

†West Hill at Louisburg Square and Beacon Hill.

‡Still standing corner of Charles and Mt. Vernon streets.

So much of this once elevated spot has been carried into the sea, that the tops of the Chimnies are not now so high, as the sods were, over which, in your youthful days, you strolled to enjoy the richness of the surrounding scenery; Should you again visit this place, you would look in vain for that commanding eminence, Beacon hill, once the pride of Bostonians.

Its venerable head has bowed before the spirit of improvement (so called) and it now constitutes a large portion of central wharf. To have these Tabers and Hermons\* replaced, future generations would perhaps contribute a sum superior to the value of the expensive improvements made in the eastern section of the Town. But neither wealth nor art, nor labor, can supply the sublime and perfect work of the Almighty. On the south side of Beacon hill stands the pride of Massachusetts whose towering dome, though but a miniature imitation of that magnificent pile in London which bears the name of the great Apostle, yet its lofty turrets, are the first objects which greet the eye of the approaching Mariner, and from the summits of our lofty hills may be seen at the distance of many miles. Our State house perhaps is not to be compared with the City Hall at New York or the Capitol at Washington, still but few buildings either in the old or new world surpass it in symmetry and correct architectural elegance, or for the convenience

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\* Mounts Taber and Hermon in Palestine.

of its grand and commodious appartments appropriated to the various branches of this Government.

The site formerly occupied by the Granary and Almshouse, is called Park place, composed of a range of elegant, lofty buildings, in an improved style of architecture after the modern English models.

The upper end of Park place, is terminated by a stately mansion which will be long remembered as the residence of that accomplished gentleman and able statesman our late Governor Christopher Gore. A superb meeting house makes the lower corner, and the appearance from the common has a fine effect. The venerable Mansion of Hancock in Beacon street remains as it was, aloof from modern improvements. Besides this house, Beacon street, when you knew it, contained only the house of our townsman the celebrated Copely.

It is now lined with elegant buildings down to the bay, which have a compleat view of the Common in front and an extensive prospect of the Scenery beyond Charles River, which nature formed delightful and art has greatly embellished. Elegant country seats and flourishing villages cheer the eye of the beholder, and enliven and diversify the surrounding landscape.

Common Street runs from the corner of West Street where Holbrooks school stood to the corner of Boylston street formerly frog lane, on the east side is a range of brick buildings continued the whole length of the street, ornamented

by a row of Dorick Columns supporting a Gallery in front with an iron balustrade forming an elegant piazza.\* The appearance of the whole is grand, uniform and chaste, and is surpassed by nothing of the kind, as I am informed, in the United States. Allow yourself my Friend in imagination to occupy one of those buildings; You have the Mall and common in front thronged by Citizens of all classes; extend your view over the bay, the uniformity of which is relieved by the bridges already described, you are delighted by a landscape which foreigners of taste have pronounced to be surpassed but by one in Europe that of the Bay of Naples, hence you have also a view of the Colleges which have been greatly enlarged and liberally endowed since you left us, for a more particular description of them, I refer you to the number of the Medical Journal which accompanies this.— I cannot omit mentioning the stately mansion of the late M<sup>r</sup> Barrell situated on an eminence on the Margin of Charles River. It is now occupied as an Hospital for the insane. This institution has been beneficed by an act of the Legislature, and generously endowed by the munificence of Bostonians.

It is thus beautifully noticed by one of our Poets,

A goodly sight in sooth it is, to stand  
On Bostons banks, where western breezes play,  
To note the green round hills or level land

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\* Colonnade Row.

That skirts the surface blue of Cambridge bay.  
One house there is midst groves of poplars gay,  
To know whose owner, strangers oft desire ;  
When Phœbus downward winds his westering way  
They see its windows look like crimson fire ;  
Whose that conspicuous roof they then enquire ?  
That house with various turns of fortune fraught  
Was once a mansion elegantly plain,  
Was next a School\* where wayward boys were taught  
Is now a place where Maniacs clank the chain,  
There they restore to thought the shattered brain,  
There bright humanity has built her bower  
There if you ask, some proof you may obtain  
That Christ's religion has o'er man some power  
[No domes like this arose in superstitious hour.

The prospect in one direction is agreeably broken by our  
Citizens Palaces (if I may use the expression) in parkplace,  
Beacon street and Mount Vernon ; but leaving descriptions

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\*Fennel established a College there, but it did not succeed. — S. B. †

† James Fennell tragedian born in England in 1766 came to America 1794. His "Apology for the Life of James Fennell" was published in 1814 at Philadelphia, two years before his death. In 1807 he gave a course of Readings and Recitations at the hall in Pond Street formerly Rowe's Lane and now Bedford Street. His first appearance as an actor was in "The Revenge." He later appeared in Othello, Hamlet, King Lear, Julius Cæsar &c. In 1809 he gave recitations at the Exchange Coffee House. In his work he tells of his experience in establishing salt works in Connecticut and his school which was short lived.

of Scenery which how much soever I may enjoy, my habits of life have not prepared me to cloath in appropriate language. The soul of a thoughtful and feeling man, is gladdened by the reflection that the space which he overlooks is not only peopled by inhabitants enjoying in a high degree the comforts of life, and the blessings of Learning and religion, but at the same time exhibits lasting monuments of their beneficent works and permanent charities, in distributing blessings as almoners of Heaven, and providing for the houseless children of misfortune and despair. I close this in confidence you will overlook its deficiencies.

My next shall attempt a description of that delightful spot the Common.

With sentiments of gratitude which I am unable to express,  
I am &c.

During the late period of hostilities between G. Britain and the U. States, our Merchants and other citizens contributed large sums for the purpose of raising works to defend the town and harbour.\*

Owing to the voluntary services of the people of all classes, in this and the neighboring towns the whole of the money was not expended, and what remained the subscribers generously agreed, should be laid out, under the direction of our able and ingenious Police Officer, Charles Bulfinch

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\*See Defence of Boston in the War of 1812-1815 Bostonian Society's Proceedings and reprint. Boston. 1899.

Esquire, in improving the Common and Mall. The result is equally creditable to his taste and their munificence. The row of trees in the Mall a gravelled walk, when you partook of its convenience, extended only on the east side of common.

It is now continued with double rows of trees on three sides, and probably soon will surround the whole.

A large plat of ground has also been added to the southern extremity of the Common, making Boylston street its Southern boundary. The northern side of the Common which you recollect, was an irregular declivity from Beacon street, has been formed by glacis into gravelled walks, independent of the Mall, accommodated with stone steps, terminating other gravelled walks, crossing the common in different directions. These last prevent the common from being cut up by irregular foot paths, and preserve nature's greensward carpet from being disfigured.

The little malls I have mentioned are ornamented with elms, pines and various evergreens, tastefully interspersed. On the whole, nature and art have continued to improve this delightful spot, consecrated to the Goddess of health and the convenience and recreation of Bostonians. Thus sir, you see the monies raised to prevent the devastations of war, peace has appropriated to the embellishment of the town.

The fortifications I have spoken of, were erected on Noddles island, Dorchester heights, Dorchester point (all

which are now within the limits of Boston) and at another point in Dorchester called Savin hill. The public works were under the direction of Loammi Baldwin Esq<sup>r</sup> who, though having had no experience in War, possessed much scientific and mechanical information, and had the talent which eminently distinguished his father, of bringing the knowledge he had acquired from books or observation into practical operation. His assistants were Major Sullivan, Col. Freeman and a few other private Gentlemen.\*

M<sup>r</sup> Baldwin is the son of Loammi Baldwin now deceased, whose name you will readily associate with that of the celebrated Benjamin Thompson (Count Rumford) both Natives of Woburn and intimate friends. M<sup>r</sup> Sullivan is member of one of the first families in the state, he is son of the late Governor Sullivan, whom you knew as an able Counsellor at law, previously to those times, which in more than one sense, "tried mens souls," severing the dearest connexions, and arraying father against son, and friend against brother: You will pardon this digression, you see I write as I should converse, without studied arrangement of facts or formality of style.

When our bleeding Country was blessed by the return of peace, and those descended from the same stock, were again restored to amity, every good and benevolent man, rejoiced

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\* George Sullivan and Nehemiah Freeman. The latter was an officer in the Regular Army and commanded at Fort Independence in 1805. In 1817 he was the superintendent of police in Boston.

sincerely on both sides of the Atlantic. To such men a state of war is always distressing, especially when it exists between men of the same language, worshipping the same God, and professing the same principles of his holy religion. May the time be far distant, when the works I have mentioned shall be used for hostile purposes.

Patriotism erected them as by Magic, and while they remain monuments of that virtue, a stranger to so many regions on the Globe, may they lead us to reflect upon the folly of jealous ambition in states and the miseries brought upon our race by those lusts which war in the members.

I close this letter & in my next will resume the topography of Boston, it will interest you more than the observations which I have now been making. We are, I know, interested naturally in reviewing the scenes which entertained our Childhood & the chain that binds us to the place of our nativity is strengthened in proportion to its extension.

New Cornhill is an avenue opened the last year, and extends from that part of Cornhill fronting Fanueil Hall to Tremont street. It furnishes a charming promenade for our Ladies and those loungers who have but little to do but gaze. It is built on the segment of a circle; the stores are remarkable for convenience and elegance. The first stories are of a beautiful granite found in the vicinity, and the upper ones of fine faced brick.

The cornices, and other architectural ornaments are of free stone. It is said London furnishes nothing of the kind more elegant or convenient

India Wharf is spacious and extensive, it supports a long tier of buildings five stories high, and runs from the South Battery, in a southeast direction towards the channel. It has depth of water, sufficient for ships of the greatest burthen. At this wharf the Amorys', the Perkins, the Higginsons' and other respectable Merchants transact business.

Broad Street was built a few years since, and extends at right angles, from near the bottom of King street (now State street) South, to the head of India wharf. This street is made on a place which recently was occupied by a few zigzag wharves and ordinary buildings, and is from eighty to one hundred feet in breadth. The buildings on either side are from four to five stories in height, and constructed in an uniform and elegant style. They are chiefly occupied as stores and ware houses.

India Street, commences at the bottom of King street and extends, fronting the harbour to India wharf. The east side of it is crowded with vessels, which are protected from the violence of storms by the adjacent wharves. The proprietors of India & Central wharves have a design of converting the intermediate space into a wet dock. The buildings on this street front the water, and are constructed in a similar style with those on Broad street.

The space between India and Broad streets, at convenient

distances, is intersected by cross streets, the principal of which is called Custom-House Street.

The new Custom-house in this street is a spacious building with compartments, suitable to the business of the different Offices of the customs. It was designed by M<sup>r</sup> Cotting (whom I shall notice hereafter) and built by the Broad street Corporation. It is the property of the United States. The business of this Office is conducted with great facility and correctness, and the heads of the different departments are remarkable for their urbanity and obliging attention.

In the course of the last year, Central Wharf, and the extensive range of Stores which it supports was begun and compleated. The completion of this undertaking, unparalleled in commercial History is a proof of the enterprize, the wealth, and perseveringe Industry of Bostonians. The number of Stores are fifty four, and the length of the tier nearly thirteen hundred feet, of four Stories. The wharf is considerably longer, and about one hundred and fifty feet in breadth, inclosed by a strong stone wall. The buildings are supported on piles, and have water proof cellars. The wharf is already lined with vessels and crowded with business.

Under an elevated centre is an arch making a convenient passage way from one side of the wharf to the other.

Over this are three rooms nearly sixty feet square, calculated for public sales. From an octagon cupola over the pediments, you have a charming view of the Harbour and

neighboring towns, and the liberality of the proprietors has furnished it with a telescope and other apparatus for the accommodation of the public.

Front Street, extends on a straight line from Auchmody's lane (Essex street) to South Boston Bridge: It is of a good width and forms a solid upland, fit for the foundations of buildings on that piece of flats between Boston and Dorchester. As yet few buildings have been erected on it of considerable magnitude.\*

The wharves which extend from this street are numerous and are chiefly occupied by dealers in fire wood and lumber.

From the southern extremity of Front street, South Boston Bridge extends in an easterly direction connecting the northeasterly part of Dorchester, including the memorable heights, with the Metropolis. The annexing these lands to Boston was a source of much speculation. Lands were bought and sold, until a few feet were nominally the price of acres, but like the South Sea Scheme, the bubble burst and ideal fortunes were dissipated in the mists of speculation.

The proximity of so large and pleasantly situated tract to the Capital, and the moderate price at which elegant sites for buildings can be obtained, together with the long contemplated bridge (which the prejudice and conflicting interests of the land holders at the south part of the town have hitherto prevented) from Sea street, which already

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\* The name of Front Street was changed in 1841 to Harrison Avenue.

tends nearly half way over the bay, will induce ere long an overflowing population to make purchases and settle; and for *air castles*, will be substituted comfortable dwellings of industry and enterprise. Already at South Boston are established profitable manufactories of glass, cordage, foundries and others of minor consideration.

Bricks of the best quality are here furnished in great quantities, find a ready sale and contribute greatly to the embellishment of the town. Dorchester heights and the surrounding scenery are thus noticed by one of our poets.

Descending round a hillocks grassy height,  
Amidst the fields of Roxbury & Brookline;  
Lo! Boston bursts upon the astonished sight  
Her western heights appear, her turrets shine.

The State house dome, here meets the strangers eyne  
With many a brick wall'd mansion circling round;  
Sheer round the City flows old Ocean's brine;  
Save southward is a Marsh, — a street — a mound, .  
And in that street swift meeting passengers abound.

Passing this southern causeway, pav'd with Stone  
What hills are those that rise upon the right?  
By Heavens! they're hills in glory's annals known;  
Once did they put Columbia's foes to flight!

In one short period, in one vernal night  
The threat'ning bastion lifted high its head;

Britannias legions could not bear the sight;  
For they had learn'd entrenched foes to dread,  
Pale as the sails, that bore them off, they look'd & fled.

What then did Briton's fly? Yes — it was so;  
Freemen are Cowards when they fight the free;  
Their cause was bad; and Heroes well we know;  
In a bad cause, can never Heroes be,  
Besides they fought with brethren; — the same knee  
Perchance had dandled some of either host;  
They could not strike; for murderous is he  
Of a brother's blood can ever boast;  
No — he that fled the first, was only loyal most.

Ascend these hills (for freedoms ground is dear)  
And set thy face towards the northern sky;  
Before thee rolls the harbor-waters clear,  
The Harbor which two rivers do supply.  
Mystick and Charles but one eludes the eye  
The other through a bay glides in the west,  
Behind thee are the blue hills heaving high,  
And nearer still green fields by Flora drest  
Where the brown Farmer toils, and is by toiling blest.

Look to the right; those waters Eastward flow,  
By many a steep-bank'd Island speckled o'er;  
And if the restless wind forbears to blow,  
(Which seldom happens on Columbia's Shore),

In the smooth mirror then we may explore  
The Islands broken bank made still more wide  
Because its upright side, and grass top hoar  
Seems part above and part below the tide;  
And near secured from storms, the gallant ship doth ride.

Close at your feet the town with streamers gay,  
Compels the impatient eye a while to stop;  
What dome is that, so dazzling like the day?  
The Exchange — we know it by its shining top,  
Boston, thy steeples seem the skies to prop.

You doubtless recollect Wheelers point, the former residence of Col. Hatch. This place was particularly selected for extensive improvements; Sea Street is continued from it southwardly nearly half way to Dorchester shore, and the original plan was to connect the two places by a bridge.\*

From this Street, at right angles, are projected a number of wharves to deep water, one is owned by the Hon. James Lloyd, Son of your old friend Doctor Lloyd.

I have seen during the melancholy period of the non intercourse and the more distressing one of the late War, large Ships and vessels at these wharves, in such numbers, that their sun burnt masts stripp'd of their cheering

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\* Jabez Hatch, colonel of the Boston Regiment in the Revolution, lived on Sea Street which extended from Summer Street to the Dorchester Avenue Bridge. It is now covered in part by the South Terminal and Atlantic Avenue.

appendages, exhibited the appearance of a forest, whose stately cedars had been deprived of their foliage by a destructive conflagration, or scath'd by the lightning of Heaven.

The improvement of the Mill-pond (which is nearly fill'd up) next claims our attention. From the old Ferry-ways (now the end of Charles River Bridge) to the mill bridge in middle street, a new street has been constructed, nearly eighty feet in width, on which are a number of large Brick houses.\* The Mill Creek or Canal is continued through (what was the Mill pond) to the old Causeway and connects the waters of Charles River with the harbour. Great quantities of Merchandize and Country produce are transported on the Middlesex Canal, of which this Creek may be considered a part, to & from the Metropolis. The Middlesex Canal unites the waters of Charles River and the Merrimack. The Banks of the latter River, and the Banks, and Ponds which empty into it, are burthened with forests of excellent timber, which are easily conveyed to Boston, and find a ready sale. So, also the heavy produce of the farms of the interior.

The Middlesex Canal opens a communication with the interior of this state, and has been productive of much good.

In the town of Chelmsford, thro' which it passes, there is

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\* Mill Lane in 1805, Mill Pond Street in 1807, Pond Street in 1814 was changed to Endicott Street in 1836.

an extensive quarry of light coloured *granite*, which is easily split into large blocks, and wrought with facility.

These blocks are conveyed down the Canal to the States prison in Charlestown and prepared by the convicts for the builders use. The New Court house, the new south Meeting-house, several banks and public buildings and a large block of buildings fronting Bowdoin square, and owned by M<sup>r</sup> Samuel Parkman are composed of this stone.

The State of Vermont furnishes a species of what is called Soapstone, somewhat of the nature of plaster of paris, it has no grit, and resembles when polished, a dark blue marble, it is easily wrought with saws and planes.

Close Stoves for warming Churches and Halls, Franklin and other fire places, Chimney pieces and architectural ornaments for buildings, Columns and urns are formed of this Stone with as little labour as the working of common timber and much in the same manner. It is equally serviceable for the permant parts of buildings.\*

One or two stores in Broad street are built of this Stone, and have the appearance of Marble. It has another good

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\* Soapstone was obtained from Grafton Vt. and its vicinity. In 1814 there were Soapstone Works on Eustis Wharf, opening off of 19 Ann now North Street, along the north bank of the Mill Creek. The end of the wharf was on the site of the stores at the east end of North Market Street.

21 May 1812 Abraham H. Quincy, a Boston baker, son of Dr Jacob Quincy patented a fire proof stone stove.

John S. Dwight of Boston, 17 June 1818, got out a patent for sawing stone.

quality, it endures the hottest fire, and retains heat for a long time without cracking.

Fort-Hill (now Washington place) is encircled with a range of lofty brick buildings, which commands an extensive view of the harbour and neighboring towns.

In the centre is a circular Mall (on the summit) lined with poplars. This is a fine promenade, to which you ascend by an easy gradation of stone steps.

Boylston Market occupies a large space of Ground at the corner of a Street of the same name (formerly frog lane) and fronts that part of Newbury\* street where the liberty-tree stood. This is a handsome brick building about the size of Faneuil hall.

Above the Market on the first floor, are two large halls one used for a Museum and another by a society, which bears the name of Linneus the naturalist; both of these are handsomely fitted with natural and artificial Curiosities.

Franklin Place, is a broad avenue, between what was called Board-alley and Long lane, and opens a communication with Marlborough street.†

The buildings on the southerly part form a crescent, and in the broadest part, is a charming green in the form of an elipsis, ornamented with trees. The centre of the elipsis

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\*That part of Washington Street between Winter and Boylston Streets. Frog Lane was the east end of Boylston St.

†Board Alley now Hawley Street and Long Lane is now Federal Street. Marlborough Street was that portion of Washington Street between School and Winter.

is marked by a monument erected in honor to Franklin. Near the bottom of this street is a Roman Catholic Church, perhaps I should say Cathedral, as it is the residence of a Bishop; no circumstance has contributed more to the peace and good order of the town, than the establishment of a Catholic Church. Emigrants from Europe, and particularly many of the laboring class from Ireland, settle in Boston. Were they destitute of means of attending public worship and of receiving moral and religious instruction from the fathers of that Church, in which they have been educated, demoralization and infidelity would be the consequences. A liberal protestant must rejoice that the unreasonable prejudices against the Church of Rome have generally subsided, and he certainly must lament that among some of our dissenting brethren, are to be found doctrines and principles at least as dangerous to christianity as are (in our view) the dogmas of the Romanist, and all who wish well to the church will devoutly desire the happy period when all who profess the faith may be united in the bonds of peace. The Catholic Clergy in this Town, the R<sup>t</sup> Rev<sup>d</sup> Bishop Chevereus, and his venerable Copastor D<sup>r</sup> Matignon, are no less esteemed for their learning and talents, than beloved for their private and social virtues.

Where M<sup>r</sup> Neill's and Gray's Ropewalks stood between purchase and Milk Streets, is one of the handsomest in town, called pearl street. The Ropewalks were consumed by fire some twenty years ago.

The town granted some flatts at the bottom of the Common to the sufferers, on condition they should rebuild their walks there, which was agreed to, and the new street was widened, and is become an elegant residence.

The Ropewalks at the bottom of the Common are parallel with each other, and being constructed with flat roofs, do not obstruct the view from the Mall and common.\*

The Town dock, which extended from the Swing-Bridge to the Stores on the east side of the dock or Market square, is fitted up, and the seite occupied as a vegetable Market and public avenues.

Faniuel Hall, famous as the Forum of Hancock, Adams and Otis and as the place where originated those measures which gave independence and a national Character to the United States, has been much enlarged. The Basement is still occupied as a Market. The Hall, which when you knew it, was one Story, consists now of two accommodated with spacious galleries on three sides, the West side where is the seat of the Moderator and the boxes or pews for the selectmen and public Officers, is ornamented with emblems, inscriptions and mottos commemorative of national events and public characters. On the right of which is a full length picture of the father of our nation, Washington from the pencil of Stuart; On the left a likeness of Peter Faniuels,

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\* This land after the rope walks erected there were burnt, was repurchased by the city for \$52,000. and the site is now covered by the Public Garden.

the liberal donor to the town, of the Hall that commemorates his name, by your old Townsman, Copley. Here are transacted the Municipal concerns of the town, and the election of National, State and Town Officers. The Attic story is appropriated as a rendezvous of the independent Military Companies, and as an armory & depot of military appendages, the excellent order and arrangement of which, renders Faniel Hall an interesting resort for strangers and military characters.

The Town-house\* (formerly so called) is diverted from its antient appropriation; The spacious hall on the lower floor, once so convenient as an Exchange, & sheltering promenade is occupied by Brokers & Mercers. The Halls formerly devoted to Legislation and the seat of justice, contains the offices of the County & Town Treasurers and Attornies; a portion however remain unoccupied, and those Walls which echoed the wisdom & eloquence of the Forum and the bench are disfigured by cobwebs and afford shelter for Bats.

Bostonians with all their good qualities, seem to disregard whatever was venerated by their fathers.

I remember but one monument of antiquity now remaining; the triangular building at the entrance of the Town dock, originally a Castle and Custom house, retains its antient "form and figure", but its pyrimidal towers are obscured from view by the surrounding buildings.

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\* Old State House.

I believe if this Edifice so remarkable for its symmetry and elegance in the eye of the Architect and Antiquarian, should be enquired for, scarcely one in an hundred of our Citizens would admit its existence, much less be able to direct to its site.\*

Many parts of the town particularly the Main street, (that is, from the old fortification to Faneul Hall) for street, middle street and Back street,† retain their original appearance, and would by you be recognized, some improvements however have been in these places occasionally made. The following places of public worship have been within a few years rebuilt. Viz<sup>t</sup> Doct<sup>r</sup> Byles, M<sup>r</sup> Moreheads, Doctor Mayhew's, M<sup>r</sup> Stillmans, Doctor Elliotts & Doctor Checkley's Meeting houses, all of them in a permanent and some of them in a superb style.‡ The old north meeting house, in north square, was demolished in the time of the seige, and on the site a dwelling house was erected

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\*The Triangular Warehouse, which stood on the site of the west end of the buildings on North Market Street, was removed for the improvement made by Mayor Quincy in 1825 when the large market was built. It is described at length in Shurtliff's Description of Boston.

†Main Street now Washington Street from the Fortifications (Dover Street) to Dock Square. Fore Street now North Street, Middle now Hanover and Back now Salem Street.

‡Dr Byles', Hollis Street Church, built in 1810; Mr Morehead's, Federal St. rebuilt 1809; Dr Mayhew's West Church built in 1806; Mr Stillman's First Baptist Church, corner of Stillman and Salem Streets, enlarged in 1791; Dr Eliot's, the New North, new St. Stephen's on Hanover Street, built in 1804; and Dr Checkley's the New South on Church Green, built in 1814.

for the Rev<sup>d</sup> Doct<sup>r</sup> Lathrop, whose recent loss, religion, humanity and the virtues deplore.

The old French protestant Church in School street was taken down a few years past, and adjoining the spot, an universal Church is now erecting.

Where stood the old brick, is now a large pile of buildings called Cornhill square. The old edifice was taken down and rebuilt in the pasture in the rear of the Mansion of the venerable Chauncey. The place is named after that great and good Man.\*

The good people of that Society, thus shewed they had some respect for his memory, if they had no veneration for the spot where they and their fathers had worshipped for so many generations. — You know it strikes a Churchman as a kind of sacrilege to convert to profane purposes, what has been once solemnly dedicated to the service of Almighty GOD. — Churchmen however were not the only ones, who considered the transaction as disreputable to that ancient Society. — Dissenters I know differ in opinion from us in this point as well as in some others. — You know we are often charged with being too much attached to the ceremonies & rites of our holy Church, and when we talk of places and things, which our fathers have consecrated to sacred pur-

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\* "The Old Brick Meeting House" stood from 1712 to 1808 opposite the Old State House on the site of the Rogers Building demolished this year. In 1817 the Joy Building stood on the site. The First Church removed from this site to Chauncey Place later Chauncey Street.

poses, they are apt to consider us as worshippers of stocks & stones.

We admit with them that the universe is the temple of our GOD and that every devout heart is an altar, from which a pure offering will be graciously received.

Still, we see nothing incorrect in entertaining a veneration for the priesthood, or the places particularly appropriated to the worship of Jehovah, and dare not convert them to secular uses. — We cannot help thinking, that if our dissenting brethren had considered that the Church is not of Yesterday, that it is susceptable of no alteration, being the work of an Almighty hand and established by divine authority, or had they made themselves acquainted with the works of the fathers & especially with those of the pious and learned Hooker, that their prejudices in regard to this point would never have existed, or if they had, would have been removed by clear and unanswerable arguments. —

For the many improvements recently made in this town, we are chiefly indebted to Uriah Cotting, Esquire, a Man of great genious and industry.

With an ardent imagination, ever under the controul of a sober judgment, he conceives great undertakings, and they seem to be almost simultaneously completed. This valuable and uncommon Man has projected a plan of continuing India street across the Long wharf and along the northern section of the harbour to the north Battery and Southerly from India wharf to Front street, which if effected, will

cover a great extent of flats, and form a permanent sea wall to all the eastern and Northern part of the town. M<sup>r</sup> Cotting has also projected the plan of building a permanent Causeway over the bay on the western side of the town to extend from the end of Beacon street to the shore of Brookline; also of connecting the waters of the western side of the town with the Harbour, by cutting a navigable canal across the South part of the town. This will not only furnish the town with a spacious avenue from the westward, but convert the waters of the western bay into a Millpond. It being in contemplation to erect tide Mills for extensive manufactoryes on the Causeway.\* It is time I believe you, as this letter has been more protracted than interesting.

Respectfully thine.—

For many years, you have had an opportunity of viewing the magnificence of pagan temples, and the mouldering monuments of antient art, of course cannot be much entertained by an architectural description of our modern edifices, any farther than the interest you take in marking the

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\*This was not realized for some years. Commercial Street was laid out just previous to 1830 and the South Cove filled in a few years after that date. Atlantic Ave. was laid out just previous to the Fire of 1872. The Back Bay project was shown on a plan in 1814 printed and colored typographically by Benj<sup>n</sup> Dearborn. The mill dam and Beacon Street were soon constructed in 1821 but a plan for buildings on the Back Bay and site of the Public Garden, was rejected in 1825 by the citizens, and not begun before the middle of the century.

progress of our improvements and the changes which time has wrought since your absence.

The fine arts have not, you well know, been much attended to in the New World, but they are daily advancing. I shall attempt a description of Christ's Church in Salem street, which may interest you, as a place, where your devotions in former years were offered, associated with friends whom this sketch may bring up to your remembrance, with corresponding and interesting coincidents. It was once the Rectorship of the venerable Cutler, and the second Episcopal Church founded in Boston.

The corner stone was laid, according to the Church Records with religious ceremonies on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of April 1722, by the rev<sup>d</sup> M<sup>r</sup> Myles and was opened and dedicated to the service of GOD, by D<sup>r</sup> Cutler on the 29<sup>th</sup> of the following December. When you left the United States in 1775, the Rev<sup>d</sup> M<sup>r</sup> Byles was rector. He with many of our best citizens was attached to the Royal Cause, and removed to St Johns, New Brunswick, and was appointed to the Rectorship, and the care of the Church in that place. Christ's Church was thus deprived of its Rector, and many influential members who conscientiously were attached to the existing government and reluctantly leaving the place of their nativity followed their pastor to England. This and other causes combining, reduced the number of parishioners. This however was not peculiarly the situation of this Church. The Rectors of King's Chapel and Trinity with many of their

parishioners to avoid the calamities of a revolution which they could not approve, left the Country, and though in many instances, their characters and virtues were highly estimated, their attachment to the government, rendered them unpopular, and in some instances obnoxious.

The return of peace softened their asperities of feelings incident to revolutionary times. The Characters and motives of those who quitted the Country were viewed with a degree of liberality, and many returned, whose talents, virtues and wealth were a blessing to the Commonwealth. At the commencement of hostilities the late Bishop Parker then assistant Minister at Trinity Church was appointed incumbent; To his prudence, talents, and pastoral labors, we are indebted under divine providence for the preservation of the Episcopal Churches in this diocese. It would not only be painful, but exceed the limits of this Letter to dwell on the causes which depressed the churches and seemed to threaten their dissolution. It would be more congenial to indulge in pious joy and thanksgiving, to the author "of every good and perfect gift" for the present prosperity of our Zion, which is considered by many, as approaching that eminence, whence it will be viewed as the defence of Christianity. Destitute of a pastor, the Desk was supplied by Lay readers, particularly by the Warden, Mess<sup>rs</sup> Bright and Sherman who will long be remembered for their piety and exemplary lives. For a period the Church was supplied by the labours of the Rev<sup>d</sup> M<sup>r</sup> Lewis and the Rev<sup>d</sup>

M<sup>r</sup> Montague, who were succeeded by the Rev<sup>d</sup> Doct<sup>r</sup> Walter. This Gentleman, as was before observed, having resigned the Curacy of Trinity Church, went to England and was made Dean of Shelburn, with the cure of the Churches in New Brunswick and Nova-Scotia, which Station he retained untill after the peace, when he returned with his family to his native Country, resuming in this Church, those labours which distinguished him as the faithful Minister of Jesus Christ.

Once more the Church indulged the hope, under the Divine aid, of realizing its former prosperity. They were not however long favored with the ministration of this able Divine; By the dispensation of a wise providence he was summoned from his earthly labors to the Church triumphant.

His remains rest by those of the venerable Cutler under the Church, and his escutcheon is placed in the Church over his tomb. In Doctor Walter were combined qualities which constitute the Gentleman, the Scholar and the divine.

To a penetrating discernment, he united a lively imagination controuled by sober sense, a demeanour always attended with the polish of a Gentleman, and a temper conformable to the spirit of the Gospel. From conviction he became an Episcopalian. His performances in the desk and at the Altar excited the obdurate to contrition and led the most fastidious dissenter to admire, "the beauty of Holiness" in our Liturgy. His Sermons were founded on sound Theology replete with the best maxims for regulating the conduct of

his hearers in the practice of pure devotion. His oratory that of the disciple of Gamaliel, convincing the doubting, and confirming the "almost Christian" in the faith of the Gospel.

Doctor Walter was succeeded by Rev<sup>d</sup> M<sup>r</sup> Haskell now rector of a respectable Church at Rye near the City of New York.

About the year 1803, M<sup>r</sup> Eaton a graduate at Harvard University was invited to read in the Church who soon after repaired to New York, received the benedictions of the R<sup>t</sup> Rev<sup>d</sup> Bishop Moore and was appointed Rector. He has had the satisfaction to witness the gradual increase of his Society to this day. Were I to attempt to describe the character of this useful and amiable man, I might be accused of partiality, which I must acknowledge I possess in no small degree. Posterity will do justice to this "Israelite indeed."\* Exertions were made by the Congregation, and the Church repaired, but they soon met with great discouragement. By a tremendous Gale in the fall of 1804, the destructive effects of which were seen from Boston to Portsmouth, the Steeple of Christ Church which had become decayed, through want of timely repairs was prostrated. This disastrous event however excited the energies and the zeal of the little band, whose attachment to their Church and pastor, no untoward accident could abate.

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\* Rev. Asa Eaton preached a discourse 28 Dec 1823 which was an "Historical Account of Christ Church, Boston." By request of the church it was printed in 1824.

The Citizens of Boston, remarkable for their liberality at all times, contributed the sum of four thousand dollars, and the next spring the steeple towered with its former grandeur. The symmetry and proportions were carefully preserved and the model furnished by that eminent architect and respectable Citizen Charles Bulfinch Esq<sup>r</sup>.

The Church is a small neat building of two stories, having a lofty tower with a chime of Eight Bells, and supporting one of the most elegant steeples in the United States. The interior has been much improved. The Church had formerly a centre or Broad aisle which is now closed.

It has four rows of long pews all fronting the Altar, and accommodated by two side aisles. By this alteration the pews are increased. The large Altar Window is closed, and the chancel is enriched by an Altar piece.

The paintings containing the LORD's prayer, the Decalogue and select texts of Scripture, with a representation of our blessed Saviour consecrating the last Supper, are from the pencil of our Townsman, Penniman. The organ, remarkable for the sweetness of its tones, is also the work of an American Artist. The Church is warmed by a large Stove having Copper pipes, which are far superior to those made of iron, both for durability and appearance. These extend the whole length of the aisles, and terminate in flues on each side of the chancel. The flues are inclosed by pilasters, supporting an entablature and cornice over the Chancel, on the frieze of which is the appropriate inscrip-

tion — “*This is none other than the house of GOD, and this is the gate of Heaven.*” Above this is a painting. *The Descent of the Holy Spirit*, by Johnson, long celebrated for his portraits. The interior of Christ’s Church combines simplicity with elegance, and is calculated to inspire the beholder with sentiments of reverence and adoration for that Almighty Being to whose service it is consecrated. At the East end of the Church on the side of the chancel is a monument to the memory of Washington with a marble Bust, the work of an Italian artist. This was the first monument erected to the great and good Man, in this Country.\* The Church you will recollect is not large, being about forty five feet in breadth, and sixty feet in length, and is usually well filled. Our excellent Liturgy is performed with great solemnity, and I hope I may add with sincere devotion. The responses are generally made by the congregation and with the assistance of an excellent choir, a larger portion of the service is chaunted than is usual in this Country.

Strangers have often remarked that the services of this Church, remind them of those of the Cathedrals.

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\* The painting of the Last Supper was given by Bell in 1812. John Ritto Penniman was an ornamental painter of banners, views of Boston, clock faces for Willard’s clocks and signs. He became dissipated and died neglected. John Johnston was the son of Thomas Johnston of Boston the heraldic painter and engraver and the maker of the organ in the church. The son was a portrait and figure painter.

The marble bust of Washington was presented by Shubael Bell and is reputed to have been modeled from a plaster bust made in 1790 by Christian Gullagher.

(Centinel 4 Dec 1802)

The Holy Communion is celebrated monthly and on all the principal festivals. The whole number of Communicants are about 180, and since the number is so greatly increased, our pastor omits the Sermon on communion days. The whole Congregation are present when this ordinance is administered, and I mention one circumstance which has a salutary effect. When our Pastor reads the sentences at the offertory, at the end of each, he makes a short pause, when the organ performs a brief symphony, this tends not only to sober the mind, and tenderly affect the heart, but adds to the solemnity of the scene, and affords time for the collection of the offerings, which is not confined to the Communicants, but made by the whole congregation.

If the practice of thus administering the Communion in the presence of the whole Congregation were generally adopted (as is certainly contemplated by the Rubric) would it not tend to increase the number of communicants?

Truly the more the rites and ordinances of our Church are known, they are the more admired.

About two years ago a Sunday School was instituted at this Church, the first establishment of the kind, I believe in New England.\* I have often seen in this School upwards of one hundred students, mostly children of dissenters. The School is opened with a form of prayer, a copy of which

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\* A Sunday School established by liberal subscription of a number of patriotic gentlemen was opened Sunday last under direction of Mr Oliver Lane.

(Windham Phenix and Herald 30 April 1791)

I have sent you, the Catechism is taught, and the higher classes are examined in the scriptures, the collects, epistles and gospel for the day, and such other tasks as had been assigned to them on the preceding Sabbath. The students are encouraged to excell by a kind and affectionate mode of instruction, and by the occasional distribution of Bibles, prayer books and useful tracts. The School is opened at 8 O'Clock and closed at 10. Those Students who choose to attend Church, have seats assigned them, and the others are required by the laws of the institution to attend public worship with their parents. The greater part however become worshippers at this Church, and you, who feel so lively an interest in the prosperity of our Zion, would be delighted to hear their infant voices, harmonizing in the responses and chaunting the praises of their Redeemer.

I shall close this long letter, which I fear is uninteresting by relating a fact connected with the history of our Church. In some ages of the world, the incident would have excited the superstitious veneration of ignorance and bigotry.

Some years since, I was superintending the building of tombs in the Cemetery under the Church, when one of the workmen digging to lay a foundation, found the earth so loose that he could settle his bar into it the whole length, with a single effort. He reported the fact to me, and I directed him to proceed till he found solid earth.

About 6 feet below the bottom of the cellar he discovered a coffin, covered with a coarse linen cloth apparently covered with pitch or tar, but on examination, I found it to be a gum. On boiling a piece of the Cloth in water it became perfectly white, and was as firm, as if it had been recently woven. Within this Coffin was another, protected from the air in a similar manner, and on removing the covering, the furniture of the Coffin was uninjured by time and entire. The Body appeared to have been wrapped in a tarred sheet, and in some respects resembled an Egyptian mummy.

It was closely covered with fine linnen which had been immersed in a substance like that of the covering of the Coffin. I cut the covering of the face crossways, so that I could turn up the corners, and found the flesh perfectly sound. It had more the appearance of leather than flesh. I found also within the Coffin and the covering of the body, sprigs of evergreen, resembling the broad leafed myrtle. The leaves were lustrous, the stems elastic and apparently in a state of vegetation.

On the top of the Coffin was a Monumental Stone, the inscription on which gave a short history of the tenant of the consecrated Mansion.

His name was \* Thomas, a native of New-England, and died I think in Bermuda, whence his body was brought to Boston to sleep with his fathers. Some of the family

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\* I think John. S. B.

were among the founders of the Church. \* Isaiah Thomas, Esquire, of Worcester, whom Brissot calls the Diderot of America, and whom you will recollect as the Editor of the *Spy*, in revolutionary times is a descendant of the family and one of the proprietors of the Church.† The remains of Thomas which had lain undisturbed for more than three quarters of a Century, were re-interred in the northeast corner of the Cemetery, and the grave stone so long concealed from observation, placed on the wall above, tells where he lies. "Peace to his manes."

I drop my pen to relieve you from the fatigue of reading, and to prepare something further for your entertainment. For the present I bid you adieu, with sentiments of Respect.

Boston April 30<sup>th</sup> 1817.

Dear Sir,

My Letters have hitherto been confined to topical improvements and local alterations;

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\* "Mr I Thomas is one of the most distinguished printers in America; He printed the first edition of the Bible, in N. England, and many other valuable & expensive works.

"A few years since he appeared as auther, and gave the literary world a history of printing in 2 Vol<sup>s</sup>. Octavo: It is a work of great merit and probably the best on that subject ever published." S. B.

† Buried 13 June 1726 John Thomas (Christ Church). Isaiah Thomas (b 1749) was the son of Moses and Fidelity (Grant) Thomas, a grandson of Peter and Elizabeth (Burroughs) Thomas and great grandson of George and Rebecca (Maverick) Thomas. John Thomas was a mariner on the Ship Eagle at St. Christophers, W. I. in 1724. The mate of the vessel was Maverick Thomas son of George and Rebecca (Maverick) Thomas. John was perhaps a brother who died at Bermuda.

I now attempt what may be equally gratifying, tho' in my descriptions I may be less successful. It is easier for me to write of buildings and materials than of men and customs.

Your native Town, all circumstances considered, is unrivaled in the numerous establishments dispensing charities, adapted to the wants and calculated to remedy as far as is competent to humanity, the misfortunes incident to the various exigencies of Life.

The Humane Society witness with grateful hearts on each succeeding anniversary, those whom their exertions have rescued from watery graves; joining in hymns of Praise and thanksgiving to the author of every good and perfect gift, for their restoration to life, and a participation of its blessings. From the interest of the ample funds of the Charitable fire Society, the unfortunate Sufferers whose dwellings and little all, have fallen a sacrifice to the all devouring element, are comfortably lodged, and the helpless infants, snatched from the domestic Volcano are taught to implore the blessings of Heaven on their disinterested benefactors. Stated Charities are distributed by the various religious societies, to the poor of their respective communions. Infant Females are sought after, educated and provided for, with care and attention until they are of age and capacity to be useful.\*

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\* See "An Historical Review of the Humane Society of Massachusetts" by M. A. DeWolfe Howe, Boston, 1918; also "A Brief

You will be surprised to hear, that this valuable institution and its important concerns are managed by a Society of Ladies, whose noble example has been followed in the establishment of an Assylum for Boys, dispensing the blessings of a virtuous education and qualifying for active and useful life. Orphans who might, . . . and probably would have been brought up in ignorance, and subjected to the baneful influence of vicious example been pests to society. Thus Children rescued from misery and disgrace may hereafter become ornaments of their Country, and the support of those institutions which under the guidance of providence have been the means of enlightening their minds, and guiding their youthful and wayward steps in the paths of happiness and peace.\*

It would be a task (tho' a pleasing one) to enumerate our various institutions; Every class and denomination of our Citizens seem to direct even their *social meetings* to some beneficent purpose. In almost every neighborhood are minor societies for cloathing indigent children and instructing them in the first rudiments of education. Societies

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History of the Massachusetts Charitable Fire Society," by Henry H. Sprague, Boston. 1893.

The Female Asylum, then at the corner of Essex and Lincoln Streets, later removed to 744 Washington Street.

\*The asylum for boys was located in a house in front of the West Church on Cambridge Street and for many years in Governor Phips' mansion corner of Charter and Salem Streets.

In June 1835 they removed to what is known as the Farm School on Thompson's Island.

are here established for publishing the Scriptures; Prayer-books, and moral and religious tracts.

So liberally are these institutions supported, that many thousand copies of the Bible, Common prayer, & tracts are gratuitously distributed in every section of our Country.

Most of our Newspapers appropriate a portion of their columns to Essays on Ethicks and Religion; and some weekly papers in Boston, and other parts of the State exclusively devoted to these subjects, find a generous support.

Thus you see my friend, that there are institutions not merely calculated to relieve temporal wants, but in imitation of our Blessed Redeemer, to supply the Poor with that *Bread of Life* which came down from Heaven.

The *liberal arts* though not much cultivated, here find a congenial soil. It would not become me to speak of the literary character of Boston, but I may be allowed barely to say, that it would not disgrace places more renowned for Science and Learning.

Our public Schools and Academies are honorable to the Town.\* The Atheneum of which I scarcely venture to speak, in an elevated degree justifies its appropriate appellation.

“Boston! thy Sons are of a noble sire;  
Bold, free, firm, great, and of impetuous heart;

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\* For a very full account of the schools in Boston, a century ago, see Shaw, pp. 169-177. Also for a list of newspapers and periodicals fifteen in number see page 282.

Money, which few obtain, and all desire,  
They carefully get, and willingly impart,  
None are more generous, oft the tear will start.

“In Beauty’s eye, when Misery’s tale is told,  
All are alert, to heal affliction’s Smart ;  
The poor, the rich, the great, the gay, the old  
Whether the cause be good, or wicked, none are cold.”

In no Country have the *useful* arts, arrived at a higher point of perfection, than in New England, and your native town boasts no small share of celebrated artists. You have long before this, perceived, that I am destitute even of the art of description, and you are undoubtedly aware of the difficulty of describing machinary, where one is not acquainted with technical terms, sure I am you will excuse an effort to please.

The Card Machine, invented by M<sup>r</sup> Clench and improved by M<sup>r</sup> Whittemore is a great effort of ingenuity ; you might perhaps doubt its powers, if I did not assure you, I have witnessed its operations.\*

The end of a coil of Card Wire, is placed between two

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\* Lemuel Cox, in 1770, invented a machine for cutting card wires. He claimed John M<sup>r</sup> Clench unduly got a sight of the same, improved upon it and claimed to be the original inventor.

Giles Richards & Co, wool and cotton card manufacturers were at 2 Hanover St. in 1789. Cox was the first to produce fish hooks in Massachusetts and instructed others in the first drawing of steel wire from half an inch down to the size of a hair.

rollers and by means of a cranck or wheel turned by a small boy, is impelled into the Machine (not so large as a common printing press) and by means of the machinery the teeth of the card are formed, the leather perforated, the teeth placed in the leather, and by the operation of a lever, the proper inclination is given to the teeth, and in a few minutes the card is completely formed, and prepared for the wood or handle.

Carding Machines of great powers, and evincing the mechanical genious of our Countrymen, are now in operation, in many extensive Manufactories.

One of our Artists has invented a machine for the Manufacture of *pins*, as I observed respecting the Card machine; the wire is taken from the coil, and a small boy, will, if I may use the expression, grind them with as much ease, and nearly as fast, as you would run coffee through a dutch Coffee mill.

In fact by the mere operation of the Machine the pin is entirely finished, and equal, if not superior, to those imported from London.

Nails, tacks, and Brads, and even wood screws are manufactured by machines invented in New England, with the greatest facility.\*

Iron Foundries are established at South Boston, formerly

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\* Moses L. Morse, watchmaker, on Congress Street and living on Pitts Lane patented 22 Aug 1814 a machine for making pins from wire at one operation.

Samuel Rogers and Thomas Blanchard of Boston, 30 Oct 1817, patented a machine for making brads and tacks.

Dorchester, where castings for Machinery of every description are readily procured.

Iron railings, fencing galleries, balustrade, gates, and other ornaments, are cheaply furnished, and have pretty generally been introduced into our town, and greatly contributed to its ornament.

There is an extensive Manufactory of Glass, at Chelmsford, through which place, passes the Middlesex Canal; The best of crown window Glass, chemical apparatus and apothecaries ware, bottles and phials are manufactured cheaper than can be imported; I have seen from the Boston Manufactory, services of the best ground and cut flint, equal to any from England.

Gold leaf is manufactured here superior to the English and much cheaper, and gilding is performed in a style equal to the European. Among other curious inventions I have lately seen an organ without pipes. The instrument is about the size of a small piano forte; It has keys and dampers, jacks &c., and the wind-chest is divided into compartments, equal to the number of keys. I am not Mechanick enough to describe it perfectly, but you will conceive that the tones are produced by wind operating upon a very elastic metalic valve like the reeds of a Clarionet, which govern the different appertures, and are firmly fixed by screws, to the top of the wind chest, on this valve or reed, fall the ends of the jacks, which are correspondently moved by the keys. The tones resemble those produced by the

trumpet stop of a Church Organ; but will hereafter be improved and varied by the Inventor.\*

To attempt a minute account of all the inventions brought into public notice within twenty years, would be futile. It is almost an adage, that Boston is the head quarters of good principles, and the Superintendant of the patent Office, at Washington, has in a late Letter pronounced it the head quarters of inventions. We have indeed Machinery for almost every purpose; We have cucumber slicers, potatoe and Apple parers, coffee roasters &c. &c., to say nothing of our inventions to lessen the labours of the other sex, in washing, ironing, crimping and other mysterious operations in that department.†

You know it has become a proverb, that "Boston folks are full of Notions," and it has so happened that many of their notions have turned out to be profitable to the community. Seriously, however, most of those, I have enumerated are truely useful, ingeniously contrived and serve to diminish the labors of man; and if productive labor, constitute the wealth of a nation, should not be overlooked as

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\* Aaron A. Peasley, a die sinker, who lived at 69 Middle (Hanover) Street, made an organ which he patented 11 Nov 1818.

This was probably a predecessor of the melodeon and afterwards called reed organs and made in the shape of a square piano. Dr Josiah Leavitt of Boston constructed many church organs in the last decade of the 18th century. Thomas Appleton, Alpheus Babcock, Charles and Elna Hoyt were making organs at 6 Milk St. opp. Old South Church a century ago.

† William Badger of Boston, 16 Feb 1809, patented a machine for cutting and paring apples.

useless. You may smile perhaps when I tell you we have machine to teach Grammar!\*

At any rate it has been patented by the president of the United States, and the privilege of using them in certain districts has been sold for the nominal sum of some thousands of dollars. What shall we not anticipate, when the mechanical powers are brought to operate upon intellect? The works of Lowths, Tooke, Johnson, Harris and other excellent lexicographers will be no longer needed; and their pages will only be used for the patter-pans and pastry vessels of the Confectioner! For your amusement I applied to the patentee of this machine for a description of it, and it accompanies this Epistle, of course you will say little about it, if you do not wish to provoke the shades of those illustrious Men, whose genious and learned labors, have immortalized the region you now inhabit. No one in New England, has given the public more *useful* inventions, than M<sup>r</sup> Dearborn, his balances are used in the four quarters of the Globe, and are not only more correct than those formerly used, but save in weighing heavy articles particularly, great time and labour. He has invented useful labor-saving Machines, to the number of thirty or forty, and many of them are now in operation.†

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\* This perhaps refers to a “Grammatical Key” patented by James Brown, Newark, N. J. 3 Nov 1817.

† Benjamin Dearborn, whose balance factory, just off Milk Street in Theatre Alley, a century ago, stood near the site of Winthrop Square of today.

I have already mentioned the names of M<sup>r</sup> Bulfinch and M<sup>r</sup> Cotting, and I could not pardon myself, if I neglected to add, that Boston is chiefly indebted to those Gentlemen, for the great and useful improvements, she has received within these twenty years. The former Gentleman had the advantage of a classical education, and nature gave him a genius for the cultivation of the liberal arts, which has been greatly improved by travel and the study of the greatest Masters; Such qualifications were greatly needed, when he returned to this Country, & were rarely to be found. He furnished the models of our principal buildings, and his designs powerfully contributed to introduce a chaste and elegant style of architecture. M<sup>r</sup> Cotting has not possessed all those advantages, but nature formed him for the accomplishment of great undertakings, and perhaps since the time of Sir Christopher Wren, no man has done more to improve a City by extensive plans, which his talent for business enabled him to execute than M<sup>r</sup> Cotting. He has always completed what he has undertaken, and will long be remembered as one, who did more, than any other, to render this Metropolis the pride and honour of New England.

Thus imperfectly have I given you a sketch of the most important alterations and improvements in Boston since you left us; I have too often indulged in remarks, which you may think irrevalent, and my ideas may appear altogether local, little else could be expected from one who

has scarcely passed the exterior of the place he attempts to describe.

Incoherent as are my letters, you will, I trust accept them as an acknowledgement of your attention to my Son, and as a mark of esteem from one townsman to another.

Should opportunity permit, I shall give you further proof of how much

I am &c.



THE VERY BEGINNINGS  
OF BOSTON

BY

REV. FREDERICK B. ALLEN





## THE VERY BEGINNINGS OF BOSTON

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A PAPER READ BEFORE THE BOSTONIAN SOCIETY, COUNCIL CHAMBER,  
OLD STATE HOUSE, NOVEMBER 20, 1917, BY

REV. FREDERICK B. ALLEN

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**A**BOUT a year after the landing of the Pilgrims at Plymouth, Captain Myles Standish sailed with a party of ten and two savages as they called the Indians, northward to visit the Massachusetts tribe of Indians on Mystic River. On their way they must have passed between East Boston on the right and Boston on the left.

It is interesting to know that Captain John Smith, the explorer Champlain and Captain Myles Standish must all have looked at the hills of Boston before they were trodden by the foot of white man.

Let us study as far as is possible the original appearance of this peninsula. Its area was then very much smaller than at present. It was less than one thousand acres,

while now the same portion of Boston contains about eighteen hundred acres. Its outline was far more irregular than now, being broken up into many points and deep coves.

Let us first study the outline of the shore between dry land and the water or marshes. If we follow the western shore line northward, it would run from Boston Neck to Park Square; then inside of Charles Street along what is now the parade ground, crossing Beacon Street about 200 feet from Charles Street, and so on all the way inside of Charles Street until nearly to Cambridge Street. The projection here was called Blackstone's Point.

Next, there was quite a cove running inland and out again to Barton's Point not far from the foot of Leveret Street. The name Barton, confirmed by the present street of that name near by, was taken from a man who established a ferry across Charles River to Cambridge.

From Barton's Point the shore line turns suddenly to the southeast and runs almost to Hanover Street; then turning north it sweeps round to the north-west enclosing a large marsh called the Mill Cove. The shore then reaches to Hudson's Point, named from a man who here had a ferry to Charlestown, and then follows the present line of the city round Commercial Street to almost the South Ferry.

Between the North End and Fort Hill there was a large bay known as the Town Cove, reaching into Dock Square, or the Town Dock. The shore line then ran eastward again to Fort Point at Fort Hill. Half way between the





PLAN OF BOSTON

Showing Areas of 1630 and 1900

By Rev. Frederick B. Allen

Town Dock and Fort Hill was a little cove running into Water Street and to Franklin Street. A little farther south of Fort Hill was Windmill Point, after which the line extended almost west to Washington Street and thence to the Neck.

The Neck was very narrow. Not only did South Cove reach to the very highway, but there was a channel by which vessels from Charles River reached to the Neck. I have heard my father say that he had seen a schooner which came this way whose bowsprit reached across the sidewalk on Washington Street.

In this original form of the peninsula it will be noted that there was a large point running to the north-west to Barton's Point, and the whole of the North End made a similar extension to the north-east. The land at Hanover Street was hardly one eighth of a mile across, and Mill Cove on the north-west was connected with the Town Cove on the east by a canal on the line of the present Blackstone St., leaving the North End really an island. Winthrop says that this narrow stream was cut through a neck of land by industry. So much for the outline of the peninsula.

Let us now observe the various hills and eminences of the peninsula. The most striking characteristic was a large high ridge extending from what is now Pemberton Square on the east, to Louisburg Square on the west. At either end of this ridge there was a hill descending abruptly to a lower level. The sharp bluff above Pemberton Square was

known as Cotton Hill, named from Rev. John Cotton. The bluff over Louisburg Square was called West Hill. Both of these eminences were at least eighty feet above water.

Going west from Cotton Hill the ridge rose some eighty or one hundred feet at Beacon Hill, which was crowned with three crests from which the name Trimountain was specially taken. It has sometimes been mistakenly supposed that the name Trimountain came from the three separate hills, Beacon Hill, Copp's Hill and Fort Hill. Snow's History of Boston says "The etymology of the word trimountain leads us directly to the origin of that name. Shawmut presented to those who viewed it from Charlestown, the appearance only of three large hills, one on the north, one far to the east, and another forming the whole western extremity of the place. On the last were three lofty and majestic eminences, and on the brow of the easternmost of these, three little rising hillocks appeared in a contiguous range. The combination of these circumstances doubtless gave rise to the name of Trimountain."

At the meeting of the Court of Assistants at Charlestown before they moved to Boston, on September 7, 1630, this order was passed "It is ordered that Trimountain shall be called Boston." Tremont Street is the only existing reminder of its early name. The Trimountain, or as it was later called Beacon Hill, rose to about one hundred and eighty feet above the sea. When I was a boy at the Latin School, Mr. Francis Gardner, the Master, in order to es-

tablish a standard of altitude, used to say: "Remember that the floor of the State House is exactly one hundred and ten feet above high water level."

The State House was built in 1795, just south of Beacon Hill. There is a picture of Boston from Charlestown, taken about the year 1800 in which the dome appears just above Beacon Hill. The ridge continued to the west along the line of Pinckney Street and probably called Mt. Vernon until it reached West Hill at Louisburg Square. This whole ridge was practically a wall against all passage over it from north to south. One either had to go round by Tremont and Court Street or by Charles Street on the west. It is striking to notice how nearly true this is today. Joy Street which is a comparatively recent route is the only clear passage from the region of the Common to the West End.

The only other hills on the peninsula worth mentioning were Copp's Hill at the North End which has not much changed its contour, especially as the ancient grave-yard has kept it intact. The other eminence was Fort Hill in the neighborhood of Rowes Wharf.

A large part of all these ancient hills has been dug away to fill the coves, thus extending the area of the city. Let us for a moment notice these subsequent changes. Fox Hill, which was a little island in the marshes at the Public Garden, was dug away to fill land in the vicinity. West Hill, over Louisburg Square, was used to fill in the

whole region extending along Charles Street to the Public Garden.

In 1804 a company was formed which was empowered to dig away the entire summit of Beacon Hill and fill in the Mill Cove to the north. This work was going on for nearly a quarter of a century. The various stages of denuding Beacon Hill are represented by a very interesting series of colored lithographs (to be seen in the Old State House) from which it is seen that the hill behind the State House was about as high as its roof.

All this earth was laboriously carried down Temple Street until the whole Cove was filled to the line of what is now Causeway Street. The names of two streets indicate the southern boundaries of this former Cove. They are Wall Street and South Margin Street. It is said that a portion of Copp's Hill and Cotton Hill was also used to fill the Cove.

Cotton Hill was also employed to extend State Street toward what is now Long Wharf, while Fort Hill was removed to fill in the land about Broad Street, India Street and Atlantic Avenue.

We have described thus far the outline of the original peninsula and its hills. Let us consider for a moment its appearance. Was it bare ground or was it covered with trees like so many of the islands in the Harbor at that time? A certain Mrs. William Pollard, who was one of the first arrivals from Charlestown in 1630, described the peninsula

as being "at that time very uneven, abounding in small hollows and swamps, covered with blueberry and other bushes." Snow a hundred years later said that Beacon Hill was covered with barberry bushes and rose bushes.

William Wood who wrote in 1634, four years after the settlement of Boston, says: "Boston is two miles North-east from Roxberry; Its situation is very pleasant, hem'd in on the South-side with the bay of Roxberry, on the North-side with Charles River, the Marshes on the back-side being not half a quarter of a mile over, so that a little fencing will secure their cattle from the Woolves. Their greatest wants be Wood and Meadow Ground, which never were in that place: being constrainyd to fetch their building-timber, and fire wood from the Islands in Boates, and their Hay in Loyters. It being a necke and bare of wood: they are not troubled with 3 great annoyances, of Woolves, Rattle Snakes and Musketoys."

Again he says: "Here likewise dwells the Governour. This place hath very good land, affording rich corne-fields and fruitful gardens having likewise sweete and pleasant springs."

It should be said that there must have been a great many clumps of trees here and there, used by Blackstone and others, for building and for fuel. A large part of the peninsula however, was bare or covered with small shrubbery. More than a century later there was said to be good quail shooting on the west side of the Soldiers Monument Hill on

the Common. This concludes the account of the Peninsula at the time of its first settlement.

Let us now consider the first inhabitant of Boston.

William Blackstone, sometimes spelled Blaxton, was born in England in 1595 and studied at Emmanuel College, Cambridge. The late Robert C. Winthrop, in his biography, said, "Blackstone took orders but had no cure. He was attached to the English Church and wore a canonical coat in America."

He came with the Robert Gorges expedition in the summer of 1623 which settled in Wessagusset and which after two years was abandoned. On its failure, one of its members, Samuel Maverick, went to Noddles Island, now East Boston, while Mr. Blackstone came in 1625 to the Peninsula of Boston, making this his home for nine years. He was about thirty years old when he came.

Very little is known of Blackstone's life in Boston. His house, called "a little cottage," was in the neighborhood of Louisburg Square, near the abundant Blackstone's Spring which flowed from West Hill. It would seem probable that it was located just south of this hill where it would be protected from the cold North winds. His house, which may have been of logs, was doubtless made from trees in the neighborhood, and the fuel required for the cold winter, must have come from the same region.

We are told that he cultivated a garden. We know that he had a young orchard the remains of which were later said

to be in Bannister's gardens on Beacon Street on the site of the Somerset Club. He must have depended somewhat upon hunting and fishing for his support. It is said that he traded with the Indians with whom he seemed to have been on good terms.

During this long period of solitary residence, we feel sure that he must have been in occasional communication at least, with Samuel Maverick of East Boston, who had been his companion in the Gorges settlement.

One other fact we know; that he had a small library of books. He was considered a scholarly recluse. We are told that after his death in Rhode Island fifty years later, the Indians burnt up his buildings, and, what will be ever deeply deplored, his library also. There were 186 volumes from folios to pamphlets, and ten paper books, or manuscripts, supposed to have been his diary. The first inhabitant of Boston therefore, was not only the largest owner in its real estate, but as a scholar, he must have given it that disposition which afterward led it to be called the *Athens of America*.

Drake says that when Blackstone invited Winthrop to come over to his side of the river, he probably had no thought of a removal himself, for he did not remove until about four years later (really six years). His selling out and leaving Boston were no doubt occasioned by his desire to live more retired, as well as to a dislike of his Puritan neighbors, whom, it is said he told, that "he left England because of

his dislike of the Lord Bishops, but now he did not like the Lord Brethren."

Although a recluse, we know he must have had a kind heart, as in the summer of 1630 he informed Governor Winthrop of the desirability of moving from Charlestown, where there had been much illness and mortality among the newcomers to Boston. It is said that he acquainted the Governor of an excellent spring there, withal inviting and soliciting him thither. This was the spring at Spring Lane.

It must be remembered that Blackstone was the owner by settlement of the entire peninsula, and even if he afterwards criticized the dominant character of the new-comers, it was his kindness and hospitality which first welcomed them to Boston.

The fact that he owned the Peninsula was acknowledged by Governor Winthrop, who later purchased of him his right in all the land. The records of the Colony inform us that in April 1633 the Court "ordered that fifty acres of ground be set out for Mr. Blackstone, near to his house in Boston to belong to him forever." On the Boston records of November 10, 1634, among other taxes assigned to William Cheeseborough, the Constable, and others, for assessment and collection, we find a rate of thirty pounds to Mr. Blackstone (this to pay him for land).

Blackstone reserved for himself about six acres of land on the point commonly called Blackstone's Point, on part whereof his dwelling house stood. It is a question whether

the additional forty-four acres, making fifty in all, were given by Blackstone to the Colony, or whether that amount was set apart by the Colony as a training ground. It is pleasant to believe that Boston Common, as it stands to-day, was the gift of its first inhabitant, Blackstone, to the city of Boston. We know at all events, that the town laid out this place as was recorded: "for a trayning field for ever since, and now is used for that purpose and for the feeding of cattell."

We are also informed that Blackstone bought a stock of cows with the money he received for his land, and about 1636 removed to Lonsdale, near Providence, R. I. He came to Boston many years afterward, July 4th, 1659, and married Sarah, widow of John Stevenson, Governor Endicott officiating, and took her away with him. Their only son settled near New Haven. This concludes what we know of Blackstone's association with Boston.

Something may now be added with regard to the first settlement of Boston. One cannot appreciate the great difference between the beginnings of Plymouth and that of Boston, without recalling the contrast between the transportation from England of the two colonies.

The Pilgrims came in one single vessel, the *Mayflower*, and numbered one hundred and two, of whom one half died during the first winter. Notwithstanding the fable of the great amount of domestic furniture said to have been brought over on that first voyage, the actual amount of material for

the future settlement must have been very small. There was no live stock whatever. They had no men of means.

The Massachusetts Colony, on the contrary, crossed the ocean in a considerable fleet of seventeen vessels, first and last, during 1630. There were twelve in the first fleet, which had, as its Admiral ship, a vessel hitherto known as the *Eagle* but now as the *Lady Arbella* from the most distinguished personage in their company. Lady Arbella, the daughter of the Earl of Lincoln, had married Isaac Johnson, and the flagship of the fleet carried them, Governor Winthrop, Sir Richard Saltonstall and others.

At least a thousand people came in June, 1630, in this first instalment, and within the year another thousand arrived. Great pains had been taken to provide what would be needed for the new settlement: servants, skilled artisans, live stock, and a great variety of materials (glass, nails, iron). In addition to the three hundred who had previously reached Salem there were now an additional company of about two thousand. A portion of them were at Salem but the greater part were soon found at Charlestown.

On Tuesday, the 7th of September, 1630 at the meeting of the Court of Assistants in Charlestown, held at Governor Winthrop's house, it was decided to move to Shawmut. About six weeks later, on the 19th of October, the General Court of the Colony for the first time met in Boston. This transfer from Charlestown to Boston must have been one of great activity and confusion, as it meant the moving at

once of more than a thousand people. The original account, written in Charlestown, was: "Whereupon, after the death of Mr. Johnson and divers others, the Governor, with Mr. Wilson & the greatest part of the church removed thither: whither also the frame of the Governor's house, in preparation in this town, was (also at the discontent of some). carried, when people began to build their houses against winter, and that place was called Boston."

We have reason to suppose that the Governor's house, whose frame was thus brought from Charlestown, was the first substantial and dignified house built in the new town. It was two stories high and was occupied by Governor Winthrop for nineteen years until his death. It must have been a residence of ample size as we hear of large meetings being held there. It was demolished by the British in 1775.

We know there must have been some concerted plan for the distribution and allotment of land in Boston to the new settlers. There had been a previous plan in England to give so many acres each, to different classes of settlers, but there is absolutely no record of its application to the settlers of Boston. All the records of the allotments for the first four years are lost. We have only indirect allusions to throw any light upon the division of the territory.

We know that the residence of Governor Winthrop was on Washington Street opposite School Street. This adjoined the spring on Spring Lane, and all the land between that lane and Milk Street was his and was called The Green.

The only other explicit statement of an allotment was to Isaac Johnson. He was the wealthiest man among all the members of the Colony and held the highest social position, having married the daughter of the Earl of Lincoln, — Lady Arbella. Although he held no office, his high character and personal influence and his great wealth gave him a predominant position. Lady Arbella had died soon after her arrival in June.

Snow quotes Prince as saying, “Upon Blackstone’s informing Winthrop of the spring at Shawmut, and inviting him thither, Mr. Johnson with several others, soon remove and begin to settle on that side of the river.” This was in August.

Snow further quotes Prince: “It is said that Mr. Isaac Johnson was the principal cause of settling the town of Boston, and so of its becoming the metropolis. He had chosen for his lot, the great square between Cornhill, now Washington St., on the south-east, Tremont St. on the north-west, Queen St., now Court St. on the north-east, and School St. on the south-west. He died September 30th. He was buried, as he had requested, at the upper end of his lot; which was the origin of the first *burying place* adjoining the King’s Chapel.”

The original allotments to Governor Winthrop and to Isaac Johnson are the only ones explicitly mentioned; but there must have been a like distribution of land to the other settlers, as after twenty years the estates of about 250 citizens are mentioned.

The earliest positive local land marks are very few. It is known that the Market stood where the Old State House is now located. State Street was called a primitive way, but was very short, reaching only to the water line at Kilby Street. Then we are told there was "A high way sometimes called the High Street, laid out from the head of the dock to Mr. Colbourn's field, a little south of Eliot Street, and beyond that was the foot way unto Samuel Wilbour's field next Roxbury."

We see thus that State Street and what is now Washington Street, were the first streets. As Dock Square marks the original landing place, where all shipping came and whence the cargoes would be carried up to the Market; and as the natural travelled path from the Market, by the Old South to the Neck and Roxbury, was along the line of Washington Street, we see the reason for their early existence.

Snow says: "The settlers at first pitched their tents at the foot of the three hills, on the Eastern side. The first houses were meanly built with thatched roofs and chimnies constructed of pieces of wood, placed tranverse and covered with clay mortar."

There was a large contingent of workmen brought over from England who were immediately set to work. The Court of Assistants ordered, August 23, 1630, "that carpenters and joiners, bricklayers, sawyers and thatchers take no more than 2 shillings a day, under pain of ten shillings to give and take." Yet so slow was the building of perma-

inent houses, that in July 1638, one John Josselyn, describing a visit to Samuel Maverick says:

“I crossed the bay in a small boat to Boston which was then rather a village than a town, there being not above 20 or 30 houses.”

Snow’s History, quoting these words says: “Josselyn must be understood to speak of the framed buildings then in the place and not to have included the mud (or clay) wall cottages, of which many yet remained.”

It is not known how definitely streets were laid out at first. The buildings generally used for the first winter were tents or log houses. They were put up along the earlier roads. Johnson’s Wonder Working Providence written in 1650 says: “The Lord hath been pleased to turn all the wigwams, huts and hovels the English dwelt in at their first coming, into orderly, fair, well built houses.”

In 1640 it was enacted that no house shall be built in this town, but with the advice and consent of the overseers.

It is only known that at the beginning the settlers occupied the whole length of Main Street on both sides from Eliot Street to the Market.

The first Church was built at the head of King St., now State Street, opposite the Market.

Cornhill as mentioned in the original records is not at all the street we now call by that name.

The original Cornhill started at Dock Square and ran by the main street, by the Old State House and Newspaper

Row, to School St. From School Street to Summer the main street was called Marlborough Street. The portion from Summer to Boylston was called Newbury Street, and from there to the Neck, it bore the name of Orange Street.

It will be remembered that when President Washington visited Boston in 1789, he made a triumphant entrance to the city over Boston Neck and through Orange, Newbury, Marlborough and Cornhill Streets. It was then voted to call the entire highway Washington Street.

At that time Washington Street ended at Dock Square. About 1810 a new street leading from Scollay Square to Dock Square, now called Cornhill, was built. As the name Cornhill had been withdrawn from Washington Street for twenty years, it was decided to apply it to this new street. Many of us can remember when the buildings on the north side of Cornhill ran all the way down to Dock Square, and Washington Street necessarily ended at this point. When this block was cut away, quite recently, the extension of Washington Street to the north, was called New Washington Street.

We have carried this story as far as our proposed subject permits. It may be as well to conclude at this point the story of

The Very Beginnings of Boston.



THE GREAT STREET TO ROXBURY  
GATE, 1630-1830

BY

WALTER KENDALL WATKINS





## THE GREAT STREET TO ROXBURY GATE 1630-1830

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A PAPER READ BEFORE THE BOSTONIAN SOCIETY, COUNCIL CHAMBER,  
OLD STATE HOUSE, 8 MAY 1906 BY

WALTER KENDALL WATKINS

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IT would hardly strike a stranger visiting Boston, or even a native Bostonian, that the old town was situated on a plain. It was so considered, however, by Samuel Maverick who was familiar with the locality for the first half century of its existence.

“The Metropolis of New England lying pleasantly on a plaine and the ascending of a High Mount which lyes about the midle of ye plaine.”

The first settlers grouped themselves on the south and east of this mount until gradually spreading, the North End, then the now business section and lastly the West End or “New Boston,” was built up. The Mill Pond, Bendell’s Cove, South and Back Bay were filled in, and the water line encroached on, and then the surrounding country became “Greater Boston.”

What is now Boston proper, in 1630, was almost an island, it being connected with the main land by a neck of land but 200 paces across. This was the domain of William Blaxton's a native of Lincolnshire a religious recluse, who with his library of about 200 volumes, which included three bibles, was located in a house on the westerly side of what is now Beacon Street above Charles Street.

His communication with his neighbor Maverick, at Winnisimmet, who lived in a fortified house on the Naval Hospital site, in Chelsea, as early as 1625, was by the Charles River. A path also skirted what is now Beacon Hill and led to a cove where doubtless a canoe was kept to bear him over to Maverick or down to Morton at Wollaston.

By this path now Beacon Street after Winthrop had accepted Blaxton's invitation to remove to Boston from Charlestown, the latter wended his way to visit the Governor, at his brick mansion house which stood for twelve years, on the site of what is now the Exchange Building. In 1630 on reaching a bend in the path, now the corner of Beacon and Tremont streets, the house of Zacheus Bosworth faced him. Bosworth was not at first a church member indeed his religious tendencies caused his disarmament, in 1637, but we find him a member of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Co. in 1650. On his death in 1655 he was possessed of oxen and cattle which he pastured in the center field on the southern slope of Beacon Hill.

Continuing on the path, along what is now Tremont Street,

a turn was made easterly into what is now Court Street, but in the earliest days this path was Centry Hill Street. Turning one faced the house of James Brown, who died in 1651 leaving to the First Church his house and lands after his wife's death and if his son James did not reach 21 years old.

Next to Brown's house was that of John Biggs who in 1635 went to Ipswich but returned to Boston and was disarmed in 1637 as favoring Wheelwright.

As is well known Winthrop came from Groton, Suffolk, England. At Sudbury England, the Rev. John Wilson preached; and he joined Winthrop's company as a spiritual adviser. His house was on the Water Street, as State Street was then called, just west of what is now New Devonshire street. In the garden and yard in the rear which ran back to the Cove Street (now Washington street) was a barn.

Just below Rev. John Wilson's house on the other side of the street between Winthrop's house and what is now Devonshire Street was the house and garden of Robert Scott, haberdasher, a merchant, in partnership with Robert Harding then of London when Scott died in 1653.

Harding built a house near the southerly corner of Court and Washington and later another at the foot of State St. which he sold in 1651. He lived there till he went to Newport, R. I. in 1640, afterward it was occupied by Samuel Norden and John Milom, cooper. He was in Virginia in 1634.

From the common landing place, at Bendell's Cove, a road went from what is now Dock Square, to the Neck, which has become known as Washington Street. Just north of the Cove and on the west side of what is now Union Street was the house and yard of John Glover, whose tanyard adjoined. He was from Rainhill, Lancashire, England, and on his death, in 1653, left half his house to his widow and half to his son Habakkuk. The neighbor, joining Habakkuk's half on the north, was William Hudson junior, innholder, who was on the corner later, of a lane, called Hudson's Lane, now Elm Street. William Hudson jr. was a son of William Hudson senior, a baker.

William Hudson, senior, baker, also had an ordinary. His house was probably the same as that occupied by his son after the father went to England in 1645 and held the office of ensign in Col. Rainsborow's Regiment. He returned to Boston but again went back to England and was at Chatham, Kent in 1656.

William Hudson, senior, also had land in other parts of Boston, one lot being on Washington Street between Milk and Summer Streets. He also owned next to Governor Winthrop where Kilby Street extends from State Street.

On the west side of Washington street was the house and land of William Aspinwall the town recorder. It faced on the high street to Roxbury and ran back to the Common.

It was on about the present line of Bromfield Street. He sold the lot of two acres, which included a garden, orchard

and close, to his son-in-law, John Angier, in 1652. Another house and outbuilding he also sold this year to Sampson Shoare. Aspinwall was a notary and his records, part of the Book of Possessions, and a Notarial Record Book, have been printed in the Boston Record Commission Reports.

A freeman, 19 Oct. 1630, he is 10<sup>th</sup> in the list of church members. He succeeded Sir Harry Vane as deputy in 1637 but was deposed as a supporter of Wheelwright and banished. He went to Rhode Island and was the first secretary of that colony. Having trouble there he went to Connecticut in 1642, and shortly after was reconciled and returned to the Boston Church. He then became clerk of the Writs and a member of the Artillery Company. In 1644 he received permission to go on a voyage of discovery and trade up the Delaware River, where he had been before but was driven back by the Swedes and Dutch. In 1651 he was charged with influencing the jury and was superseded, as Notary Public, by Nathaniel Souther.

After remonstrating, he returned to England, in 1652, and was living in Chester, Eng<sup>d</sup>. in 1662. He was the author of several books printed in London.

On the west side of the great street north of the site of the "Old Corner Book Store" and the site of the original location of Thompson's Spa was Samuel Cole, inn-keeper, whose second wife was Margaret, daughter of Isaac Green, of Mersey, Essex, England. His third wife was the widow of Major Keayne. Here he kept the first inn of the town, and sold

beer and wine. Here a son of the Earl of Marlborough was lodged in 1637. In 1638 he sold out to Capt. Robert Sedgwick who also set up a brew-house here. On the property, at the corner of School Street, Ann Hutchinson lived, and Cole was one of her many sympathizers.

At or near the north corner of Spring Lane and Washington Streets, was the lot on which the second residence of Governor Winthrop stood, by the Governor's spring.

Near here a path led to the water, following the present line of Milk Street. About half way down, on the right, was the house and garden of James Penn who was appointed beadle to Gov<sup>r</sup>. Winthrop in 1630. In 1650 he was sent as a messenger to the poor of the church in Bermuda. He was also marshal or sheriff's officer and a ruling elder. He died in 1671 leaving a bequest to Harvard College.

One of Blaxton's nearest neighbors was John Odlin, the armorer and cutler, who deposed in 1684 to the purchase from Blaxton. His house and garden were at the bend on the east side of the street leading to the Neck between Essex and Bedford streets and with a view across the Common toward Blaxton. A freeman in 1634 he subscribed to the free school in 1636 and died in 1685. On the corner of Washington and Essex streets where the Liberty Tree Block stands, was the house and garden of Garrett Bourne who removed to Rhode Island in 1654. He was employed by Elder William Colbron. He also had land at Muddy River (Brookline) which he sold in 1664.

Deacon William Colbron, who came with Winthrop, was an active citizen, in church and state, though affected by the opinions of Wheelwright. He was located on the northern corner of Washington and Boylston Streets and his lands extended southward toward Roxbury as far as Castle Street on its north side. This last bound was fixed as recently as 1840 by the Supreme Court.

Ten miles northwest of Northampton, Eng., is the village of Guilsborough. From this place came Edward Belcher, a soap boiler, and pipe-stave culler, and settled in a house, with a garden, west of Colbron's.

A short distance north of Colbron on the street to Roxbury was the house of Thomas Sharpe which was burnt, on 16 March 1631, and he embarked for England 1 April.

Boylston street was but a lane leading to a "field near Colbron's."

On this lane, next to Belcher, was the house and garden of Robert Walker, a linen webster, who came from Manchester, England, where he and his father were "overthwart" neighbors of Henry Sewall, and his son Henry, of Newbury Mass., who had come to Manchester from Coventry, Eng.

About 150 years later, about 1795, there was established on the site of Robert Walker's garden on the east side of Frog Lane a large duck manufactory, where the sails of the Constitution were made.

Walker, though a linen weaver, was also a shopkeeper,

and cowkeeper, of the cows, which pastured in the rear of his house, on the Common.

Next west of Walker's garden, on the south side of the lane, was the house and garden of John Cranniwell from Woodbridge, Suffolk, England, who died in 1639. He had two acres of land in his rear, toward the water. His brother Richard, of Woodbridge, gave his brother-in-law, Thomas Marrett, a power of attorney to sell in 1642.

To a stranger in Boston, during the past quarter of a century, the term Boston Neck would seem strange if he visited that locality. But to those who, like myself, have passed the half century and been familiar with its streets during that period the term is appropriate. Especially if they have conversed, in the past, with those who have seen the bows of vessels nearly reaching to Washington Street in the vicinity of Beach Street, or Dover Street.

The Neck in early days was devoted to the pasturage of cattle and the various fields were fenced and provided with gates and stiles.

On the road or path to Roxbury was a fence crossing it with a gate and stile, as early as 1635, which was attended to by brother Samuel Wilbore and a few years later, in 1639, Samuel Sherman had built a cow house near the gate which was ordered to be removed.

It was in 1644 that one Jasper Rawlins commenced brick-making, on the Neck, an industry that was attempted unsuccessfully, several times during the next two centuries.

William Colbron and his opposite neighbor, Jacob Eliot, who lived on the south corner of Essex & Washington Streets in 1643, and the town, in a year or two, found it was necessary for them to levy 2 pence on every head of great cattle pasturing on the Neck. It was probably at a much earlier date, than 1650, that the Boston man, whose farm was at Muddy River, passed through two gates, in traversing the Neck, as in that year Peter Oliver received, £15 a year, to maintain the highway from Jacob Eliot to the farthest gate by Roxbury Town end. One gate being at the narrowest part at Dover St. the other at Roxbury line.

Meanwhile the tide of emigration poured into New England; the Puritan, the victims of the Ship Money Tax, the Irish prisoners of Cromwell, and the unfortunate Scots from Worcester and Dunbar. The Royalist and in turn the Roundhead at the Restoration, the Baptist and the Quaker, till in 1672, it seemed fit that the original settler should have some rights above the more recent comers, and it was defined, that all inhabitants resident on the 18 May 1646, should be proprietors of the commonage on the Neck.

But the tide of emigration was to slacken — the troubles with the Indians, in King Philips War, arrested emigration to Boston. It also alarmed the town for its safety and one, William Ingraham, carpenter, was employed to build a watch house at the Neck the first line of defence built against a human trespasser though in April 1631, a court of guard was instituted on the Neck, an officer and six men, but

soon discontinued, the colony being at peace with the Indians.

The usual night watch of two bellmen, was supplemented, in 1677, by eight men. Two to walk to and fro at the North end, on what is now Hanover Street. Two on Prison Lane, (now Court Street) and down Washington Street to the Town Dock (now Dock Square). Two from the Town House (now the Old State House), to Deacon Eliot's house. Two from Eliot's house to the Roxbury gate and these last were to cause the gate to be shut at night and opened at five in the morning. All Indians and disorderly people to be committed to the prison, which stood on the site of the Old Court House now the City Hall Annex.

Whether this watch house, fell into disuse as such is uncertain but, we find, by the year 1692, that the town had a house on its land, occupied by widow Kneeland, who was dispossessed in favor of one Edmund Ranger that year.

It was at this house the farmer at Muddy River or from other parts of the continent refreshed himself on entering Boston's limits.

In 1699 the road over the Neck, over which all the travellers by land to and from Boston passed, sadly needed repair, and it was voted £200. be raised for the purpose.

The necessities of the situation evidently occasioned the possibilities of, what, in these days of sordid motives might be spoken of as a graft.

The scheme was planned and voted in town meeting that

all the land on both sides of the way "between the oak and walnut, and the fortification," shall be granted to such person or persons as should maintain a highway forever no less than fifty feet wide.

Here occurs the first notice of fortifications on Boston Neck at Dover Street.

Early in the spring of 1701 preparations were begun to start the new settlement at the Neck. The first to build was Mr. Stephen Minot a tailor from Dorchester, the first of that name to live in Boston.

He was prominent in town affairs and in the militia, a shrewd merchant who foresaw the advantage of a location near Roxbury Gate.

In the earliest days of the town Jacob Eliot became possessed of considerable land on the Neck. Part of this Minot bought first of a son, Asaph Eliot, and in 1701 he purchased 15 acres more from Jacob & Benj. Eliot and a dau. Mary wife of Elizur Holyoke.

He petitioned for leave to erect his building, 10 Apr. 1701, and on 12 May 1701 the town passed an order that no person should buy any grain, flesh, fowl, or vegetable, while it was bringing from Roxbury Gate to the houses of the town before two in the afternoon, except those living between Roxbury Gate and the first turn or lane leading to the training field.

12 Jan. 1701/2 having completed his house Minot petitioned for a license to keep an inn at his house nigh Roxbury Gate, but the selectmen for some reason refused him.

16 Feb. a month later he petitioned with one John Walker, who had kept an inn on the Bowling Green at the West End of the town for a license for the latter to keep a public house of entertainment for horse and man and this was approved.

From this date 1702 till the Revolution this tavern was noted as a place of resort for those journeying to and from Boston. In 1703 the town leased to Minot the house and land nigh Roxbury Gate in which Edmund Ranger dwelt. Minot to keep the gate and perform other duties.

In a pamphlet printed in 1707 "A Memorial of the Present Deplorable State of New England," being an attack on the maladministration of Gov. Joseph Dudley, appears an affidavit of Thomas Newton, gent.

"That one Stephen Minot having built a very Convenient House for a publick Inn or Tavern upon a place called the Neck, the Governor having a Tenant who kept a Publick House near to it, Prohibited the Justice to grant a License to said Minot tho' it was Requested by the General Assembly but the said Minot could not obtain a License for his House, until he complied with the Goverour upon hard Terms."

At this time Francis Thresher paved the way 24 feet wide at £3. for every rod in length.

John Gibbs succeeded Walker as landlord of Minot's house and Gibbs removing nigher the town was succeeded by Samuel Mears, 1 Mch. 1707/8.

It was while kept by Gibbs that the tavern had the name of George Tavern, patriotically named after Queen Anne's

husband, George of Denemark. It was not the first tavern of that name in Boston, however, as there was a George Tavern, formerly known as the Castle Tavern, on Wings Lane (Elm Street).

A sketch of the George Tavern on the Neck might be of interest. For several years it was the custom of those perambulating the bounds of Boston and Roxbury to meet at the George, where a goodly amount of punch and other refreshments were consumed.

On the division, in 1733, of the estate of Col. Stephen Minot, the George Tavern estate fell to the share of Stephen, junior, who not being as prosperous as his father, lost it by an execution to James Bowdoin, father of Governor Bowdoin, in 1742. In the partition of James Bowdoin's estate, in 1749, the Tavern lot fell to Mary, wife of Belthazar Bayard, his daughter. It then descended to Mary Bayard, their daughter, who married in 1750, Melatiah Bourne.

The Mears family were the landlords of the tavern for a score of years. In August 1721, on account of the small pox in Boston, the General Court met at the George Tavern, but it not being accomodable they adjourned to Harvard College, but the small pox appearing there, they adjourned to the Swan Tavern, Cambridge. In 1730 this was reversed, on account of the disease in Boston, they met at the College, then at the East meeting house, Roxbury, then the George, and lastly the Court House, Boston. The Probate Court was held here in 1730.

Simon Rogers seems to have been the landlord, as early as 1726 and of another Tavern near the "George," with about four acres of land which was owned by the town.

Rogers died in 1736, and Stephen Minot leased the town's estate for seven years. In which year, 1736, Andrew Halyburton seems to have had the "George" and also the town property near by; but the same year he was located on Ship Street and soon after at the Sun Tavern in Dock Square, standing in recent years.

From 1765-1768 the George Tavern was kept by Capt. Gideon Gardner, he renting also the buildings owned by the town.

In 1769 a Mr. Edw. Bardine from New York had it and 29 Jan. 1770 sold the furniture and it was advertised as to let. Next Thomas Bracket was the landlord and the name had been changed to the "Kings Arms." It was advertised to be sold 23 May 1774.

During the siege of Boston the tavern was destroyed. The Rev<sup>d</sup>. Benjamin Boardman, Chaplain of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Conn. Regt. in his diary says under date, 31 July 1775,

"Last night about one of the clock a brisk fire from the enemy at Roxbury. One of our centry was hurled round by a cannon ball, & thrown down, which gave him a considerable of a shock. The enemy fired the Georges Tavern & several adjacent buildings."

It is said to have had a sign with the King upon it.

On 19 Aug<sup>t</sup>., 1776, Melatiah Bourne sold to Aaron Blaney

the land "on which lately stood the George Tavern." From Blaney it passed to Enoch Brown and the latter's estate was sold to Dr. Jonathan Davis of Roxbury in 1785.

Buildings were again erected on the land which measured about 15 acres in all.

Peter Richardson kept an inn, at his house on the Neck, where the George Tavern lately stood in 1788, and Sarah Barton was approved as a taverner, for the George Tavern on the Neck in 1791. In 1793 the house on the Neck formerly called the George Tavern was used for Health examinations.

By the will of Dr. Davis his property went to Isaac P. Davis through a nephew of his wife, Samuel Williams, the latter selling to Davis the lot then some 17 acres for \$22,500. The house became the property of the widow Sarah Davis.

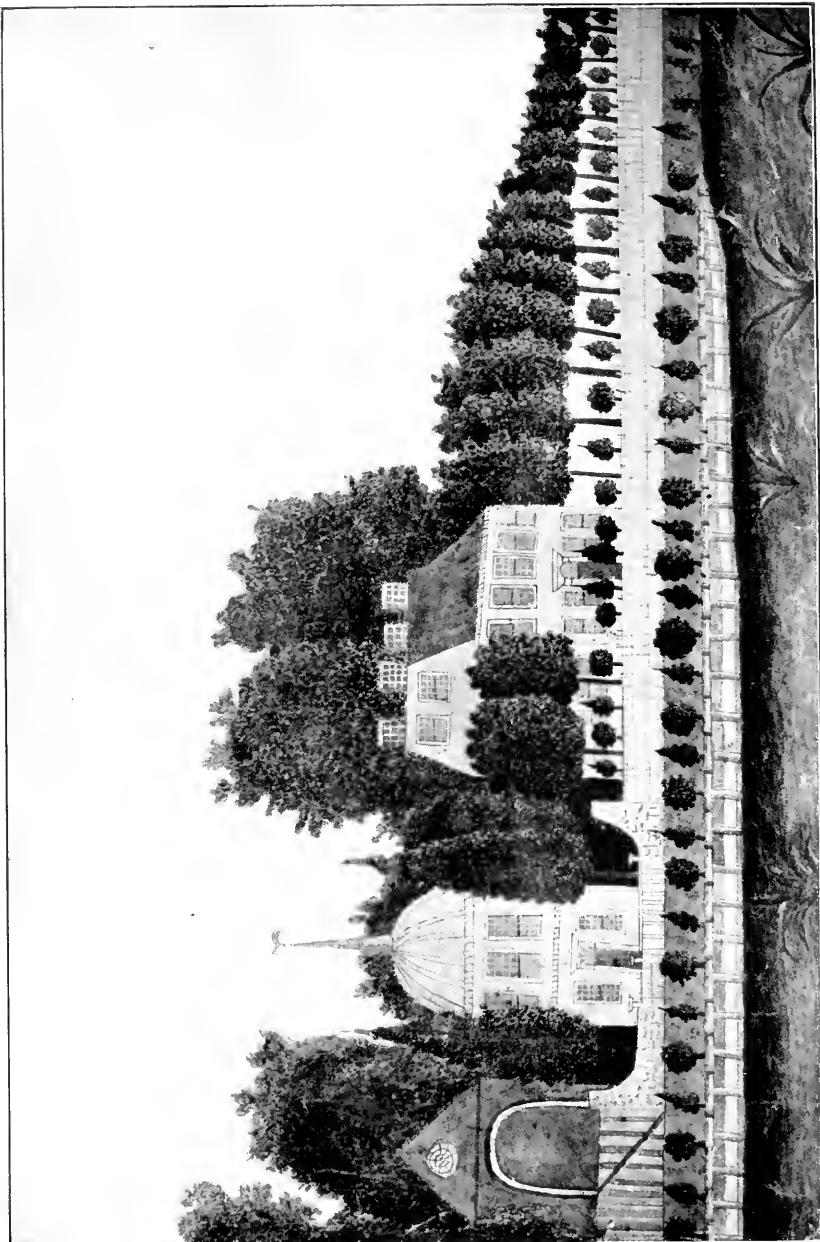
In the Columbian Centinel of Jan. 1811 appears this advertisement — To let a large and commodious house on Washington St. near Roxbury, now occupied by Mrs Rowson (afterward Mrs Haswell) as a Ladies Academy. It has three parlours, nine chambers, school hall, dining room, kitchen wash house barn and stables, a large yard kitchen, garden, pump etc. Apply to Mrs Sarah Davis in the house north of the premises.

In 1762 Lieutenant William Haswell of the British navy had a daughter, Susanna, born to him by his wife, Susanna Musgrave, at Portsmouth, England. Lieut. Haswell was then in the revenue service on an American station and the

mother died on giving birth to the child. Later Haswell married Rachel, daughter of Ebenezer and Elizabeth (Hudson) Woodward, of George's Island in Boston harbor. Haswell went to England in 1766 and returned with his daughter and was wrecked on a point of Lovell's island opposite Ram's Head, in Boston harbor, 28 Jan 1767. At low tide all were rescued. Haswell's home was at Nantasket and his visitors mainly loyalists but his American wife was the cause of his escaping violence at the hands of his fellow townsmen during the Revolution. He and his family however were removed to Hingham and in December 1777 to Abington and the next spring were sent to Halifax, N. S. and then to England. While living in London, in 1786, Susanna married William Rowson, a hardware merchant and trumpeter in the Royal Horse Guards. In the same year she published *Victoria*, her first novel, in two volumes.

In 1790 was published *Charlotte Temple or a Tale of Truth* of which 25000 copies were sold in a few years and innumerable editions thereafter. In the winter of 1792/3 the Rowsons appeared on the stage in Edinburgh and arrived in Philadelphia in the fall of 1793 with Thomas Wignell's company. In 1796 the Rowsons came to Boston and played in the "Farmer" a comic opera at the Federal Street theatre. Among her parts Mrs Rowson played Lady Sneerwell in the *School for Scandal* and Dame Quickly in the *Merry Wives of Windsor*. On 12 Apr 1797 was played *Americans in England or Lessons for Daughters* written by Mrs Rowson. Next month





Mrs. ROWSON'S SCHOOL, BOSTON NECK, 1807-1809.

the *Slaves in Algiers* written by her was performed. Mrs Rowson left the stage in 1797 and under the patronage of Mrs Samuel Smith opened a school in Federal Street.

In 1800 Mrs Rowson took a lease of the Wyman house in Medford later known as the Bigelow place. Here a school had been carried on by Joseph Wyman. In the autumn of 1807 she removed to Boston and in connection with her sister in law, Mary Cordis, wife of her half brother Robert Haswell, who died in 1801, opened a school on Washington Street in the house owned by Mrs Sarah Davis.

For a picture of this house we are indebted to Sarah, the half sister of Benjamin Champney, the artist. She made the drawing while a pupil of Mrs Rowson at the house on the Neck. Among her staff of instructors were Peter A Von Hagen, professor of music, Gotlieb Graupner, a teacher of music, Monsieur Des Forges, a French nobleman as dancing master and a Mr Miln, teacher of French. Later George Shaffer was dancing master. Meanwhile, Mr Rowson having obtained a position in the Boston Custom House, with the earnings of Mrs Rowson, was enabled to purchase a house in 1809 on Hollis Street opposite the church to which location the school was removed. The widow, Mary (Cordis) Haswell, continued the academy, on Washington Street, for several years until her marriage to John Lemist.

After that the house was empty for several years Mrs Davis having died in 1815 and it came into the possession of the wife of John Griggs by the will of Mrs Davis, who was an adopted

daughter and niece the child of her brother Samuel Williams. John and David R. Griggs also acquired the land on the north known as Lamb's Dam Farm which was improved as Lenox Street and part of Suffolk Street now Shawmut Avenue.

In 1846 the house was occupied by John A Bloom a teacher of foreign languages.

About the middle of the last century the house had an additional story and cupola and so shown in Gleason Pictorial 1852 page 25. It depicts a sleighing scene on Boston Neck and the sign on the house reads *Washington House*. It was taken as a road house by Aaron and Azariah Cooley, truckmen, in 1850 and run by them as a hotel to 1855. In 1856 it was kept by Joshua G. Hall, in 1858 by William Hardy and in 1859 by Joseph N. Ford. It must not be confounded with the Washington Tavern on the Neck which was on the east side just north of Dover Street and run by William Bird and Samuel Andrews just before and after 1800. There was also the Washington Coffee House 158 Washington just south of Milk Street, formerly the Indian Queen of 37 Marlboro Street.

What it has been more frequently confounded with was the Washington Hotel adjoining the Washington House on the south. It was a brick building owned by Mrs Davis and built before her death and occupied as a hotel at that time by Glover & Leadbetter. In 1820 it was kept by William Fenno who 1827 to 1836 was in Cornhill Square,

Federal Street Coffee house 1838-42, Old Powell House, Theatre Alley 1846-51 and Province Street 1852-5.

The Washington Hotel was purchased in 1816 by Peter O. Thacher of George Ziegler Mrs Davis' administrator. In 1826-7 the hotel was run by Henry L. Bascom who in 1829 opened the Boylston Hotel, School Street as narrated in volume one, series two of the Society's Publications.

In 1830-1 it was kept by George Read and was known as the Washington Hotel on the Neck. Shortly after it was the property of Amherst or "Nosey" Eaton who had been at Concert Hall who gave it the name of Washington Hall and ran it as a road house to 1848. Its discontinuance, though occupied as a residence by the Eaton family, caused the Cooleys to open the Washington House, in the academy building. In 1860 the Griggs heirs sold the Washington House and the south corner of Lenox and Washington Street the former brick residence of Mrs Sarah Davis to William Evans, contractor, of Roxbury, who erected the Washington Market on the site. Washington Hall was on the north corner of Worcester Place and Washington Street. In the rear of the Washington House in 1859 at 3 West Lenox Street was the residence of Ashley Parmelee, baker.

In 1784 Aaron Blaney sold three lots of land to Dr. Jonathan Davis with buildings thereon. In 1787 he executed a deed to him of his furniture, stock and personal property also his pew in the church.

In 1798 Aaron Blaney occupied a two story wooden house,

with 30 windows, covering 1323 square feet and 15,000 square feet of land. This later was called the "Old Blaney House" and was probably the house later the "Academy" or "Washington House." Tradition gives the date of erection as 1746.

In 1706, £200 was appropriated by the town for the fortification at the Neck. This was caused by the depredations of a French fleet in the English West Indies, and on a recommendation of a Committee of the General Court "that the fortifications at the Neck be repaired & guns for the clearing of the lines be procured."

In 1711 an expedition was organized to Canada and English forces were encamped at Boston.

3 Aug. 1711 the town voted a line of defence be made across the Neck between Roxbury and Boston. That a convenient number of great guns as thought needful by a committee shall be planted in the line of defence. The line of defence was to be made within or about 200 feet to southward of Samuel Phillips' land on the Neck. The same was to be faced with stone from the bottom of the ditch to the height of the rampart, and the parapet to be sod work. Persons having taken stones from the Neck or flats were ordered to replace them.

It is probable that the fortifications of 1706 and 1711 were not erected on the same spot as older works further north, as mention is made, in 1707 and 1711, of the old fortifications on the Neck.

About 1715 a two rail fence was put up on the Neck at the

expense of the Province and later a picket fence and in 1717 the defences were strengthened by brickwork. Sewall, visiting them for the first time 20 July, and again 30 Augt., writes "had the pleasure to view the wall of our city and pass in and out the gate, the work being closed, (finished) postern and all. The Lord keep the city." This brick work was probably a gateway and the brickwalls at each end of the fortifications, which were damaged by a great storm in the spring of 1739.

Outside the fortification was a ditch, twenty feet wide, the tide running through and a drawbridge crossing it.

In 1746 on a threatened French invasion the ditch was cleared, guns provided for ports in breastwork and platform made for guns to traverse.

In 1757 the fortifications on the Neck were repaired as hostilities were active with the French and Indians.

By 1768 the troubles between the home government and the provincials were increasing and a guard house had been built just inside the fortifications and the town also built a watch house and added four men to the watch there.

A house owned by the town was also requested as a guard house but the request was refused by the selectmen.

The governor, in 1774, ordering the ground for further defences the town protested as they did also against the interference by the soldiers of those passing in and out the town.

The additions and changes, and the utility of the defences during the Siege of Boston would be a lengthy story by itself.

In 1780 Farrington and Davis, the abutters asked that part of the brick wall might be taken down for their accommodation, and the governor allowed it soon after, and others asked for the use of the bricks.

There are several views of the fortifications and plans showing their location during the Revolution.

Reference was made to a new settlement at the Neck early in the 18th century. In 1708 grants were made to ten grantees, all prominent men, of strips of land crossing the highway, averaging 95 feet each, on condition the sea was kept from encroaching on either side. The territory was between Castle and Dover Streets 50 acres and the proprietors began erecting buildings. One of them, Col. Minot, had the lot next Castle St. on this he erected a wheelwright's shop. The furthest lot from Minot's was that of Samuel Phillips, next the fortifications to be erected. On the division of Samuel Phillips' estate in 1726 this lot fell to his son, Gillam, and in 1742 he sold to Thomas Baker and Robert Pierrepont.

Thomas Baker sold his half, in 1759, to Caleb Davis, and Pierrepont his to Isaac Bird in 1753.

On this lot is supposed to have stood, about from 1722 to 1728, the Rose and Crown Tavern, which was named after an earlier tavern, of that name owned by Samuel Phillips just south of the Town house.

When hanging was a common punishment, for even minor crimes, the gallows was an ornament of all large towns, in Great Britain and her colonies. It was the custom to locate

it in as public a spot as possible, on a much travelled highway. For this reason its location in Boston was on the highway leading to the continent, as the main land was called, and on the Neck, where its lesson would not fail to be heeded by the evil disposed coming to town.

In 1656 it was ordered that the gallows be removed to the next knoll of land, before the next execution. This would locate it just back of the former Conservatory of Music, shown by the tombs in the burial ground.

In 1717 a windmill was erected near Gallows Bay on Gallows Hill, the ground 94 feet in diameter, being fenced in and a cartway leading to it. This windmill was blown down in the gale of 23 Oct. 1761. In 1749 a tenant was found for the land on which the gallows stood. In 1751, it being necessary to hang a negro girl, a piece of land on a knoll, on the west side, was selected, outside the fortifications. In 1765 it was proposed to return to the east side for a site, the gallows to be placed within 40 or 50 feet of the fence.

The location of the gallows during and after the Revolution was about 150 feet north of Malden Street on the east side of Washington Street. The spot is now consecrated ground being the site of the Roman Catholic Cathedral.

It disappeared from there in 1785 when the town sold fourteen lots as will be mentioned. A post of the gallows was used as a boundary of Col. John May's lot (#13) and a painted sign on it gave that information.

Boston, Jan. 17, 1765. Last Evening, just after 7 o'clock,

as a man was going over Boston Neck, he was stopped by a fellow, who presenting a Pistol to his Breast bid him deliver, swearing he would send a brace of balls thro him instantly if he refused: but the man replying, he had but 3 Pistareens about him he ordered him to go about his Business; and then ran off—doubtless apprehending a Pursuit, as there was a Number of People hastening towards them. He was a little Fellow had on a surtout Coat, wore his hat flap'd before, and had a pair of Pistols.

(Mass. Gazette)

At one time notices were given that a number of horses would start for a purse \$200 on the new course at Boston Neck and a purse made up, but the affair was jockeyed and great dissatisfaction expressed.

In 1696 a company was formed for making salt, as made in France, and they were to have a monopoly of making and importing. A condition was, that 100 hogsheads be made before the end of 1700. Sept. 1700 a lease was executed to the company, by a committee for the town, of marsh on both the sides of the neck, with a pond on the marsh on the West side. The rent was one pepercorn a year.

In 1716 permission was given the proprietors to erect a building for boiling and houseing salt  $60 \times 40$ , 16 feet stud.

In 1747 the saltworks were leased by Henry Gibbons. In 1787 Gen. Joseph Palmer, of Revolutionary fame, desired to lease them but was refused. In 1809 Benjamin Wheeler established saltworks on Deer Island by permit of the selectmen.

As early as 1644, Jasper Rawlins made brick on the Neck, and proposals were frequently received by the selectmen for the town lands to be leased for that, and making pottery, but it was discouraged and orders passed to prevent breaking up the land for the purpose. In 1774, however, the town voted that the committee on ways and means could have the poor lay out a yard to make bricks on the Neck.

In 1785 another division of the town's lands on the Neck took place, and from the fortifications southward 1400 feet of the highway was bounded by the lots of 14 new proprietors. Lot 1, next the fortifications; went to Caleb Davis. It ran back on the east side 200 ft., and had a front on Washington Street of 122 feet and a half. On the west side, a front of 80 ft., on the street, and 132 ft. 5 in. deep.

The lot furthest south near the Cathedral site was that of Robert Davis. These lands were exclusive of the town's bull pasture which was located there for nearly two centuries. These lots had a bend at 70 feet from the front, still noticeable.

In March 1787 the town granted to William Brown land on the west side the street next the fortifications and he also acquired the land opposite on the east side.

In 1804 a company was formed to build a bridge to South Boston at Dover Street, which was first known as South Bridge Street. Deacon William Brown owned the house and land, on the southeast corner, and the house, painted

green, was known as the “green house or store” up to the middle of the last century.

Here were located the fortifications from 1706 to their destruction in 1787, just south of the Williams Market site, 76 feet from Dover Street.

We have visited the first settlers of 1630, at their houses on the great street to Roxbury; let us mark the progress of nearly two centuries and see how Washington St. of the present day, appeared to the Brookline visitor of 1800. From Faneuil Hall, up to School Street, was then called Cornhill.

The present Cornhill was unknown, and did not appear till 1829. Nos. 43 to 45, Old Cornhill, disappeared at that time. The most northerly house next Brattle Square was #37, Edward Tuckerman, son of a baker on Orange St. The son sold Dutch and German goods steel and glass beads, for the African market, or Slave trade. His stock, however, was mostly hardware. A few doors beyond was an apothecary store, at #41, moving south ward, on the same side, at 44 was Caleb Bingham’s book store, and next door, #45, was the house of Tuthill Hubbard, into which the dead body of one of the victims of the Boston Massacre was carried. 46 was another book store, Benjamin Larkin. At 48, Margaret Phillips would sell you a ticket in the Harvard College Lottery. At 51 lived Deacon John Simpkins, upholsterer, treasurer of the Mass. Charitable Society who lived to 91, presumably from his membership in the Ancients

and Honorable Artillery Co. A four story brick building stood on the corner of Court and Washington Streets, the Ames Building site. It was owned and occupied by John Carnes, shopkeeper.

Adams and Loring furnished broadcloths and Kerseys, on the site of the Sears' Bdg.

Where the Rogers building stands was the First church, or the "old Brick," the passage around it was called Church Square. On the north corner, in #5 Church Square, lived Colonel Thomas Crafts who proclaimed on, 18 July 1776, from the east balcony of the Old State House, the Declaration of Independence. He was a prominent "Ancient" and Mason. On a brick store, at #61, was displayed the sign of the "Good Samaritan," Bartlett the druggist. As first displayed it was the portrait with a full wig of Rev. Dr. Walter of Christ Church. Herman Brimmer owned the Corner book store and it is still held by his descendants.

Crossing Cornhill from School St. we find, #1 Cornhill, next the Old South; it was the Boston Book Store.

On the north corner of Water St. was published Fleet's Register. Further north at #11 lived the Whitwells, Samuel Whitwell's hardware shop on Union St. was at the sign of the "Golden Candlestick."

At #23 was the shop of Ephraim Prescott, who will go down into history, as the "Ancient" who brought the punch bowl from China. It is a ten gallon affair and can better be

described by the doughty warriors of that venerable organization.

Samuel Elliot's store was on the bend going down toward Dock Square, 19 feet West on Cornhill, 100 feet on the north side.

The next section of Washington Street was Marlboro Street, running from School to Winter Street, number one being on the north corner of Winter. Next door towards School Street was the house of Ebenezer, the brother of John Hancock. He had been paymaster-general during the Revolution and at this time was keeper of the powder magazine of the town.

A little further north was a three story wooden house with a passage way on the south leading to a large stable in the rear. This was the "Rising Sun Tavern," later the "Marlboro Hotel." The stable became the Marlboro Chapel and later the hall of the Lowell Institute. In the rear of #21 was the bake house of Abraham Quincy.

The Province House the former residence of the governors stood opposite Milk St.

At this time it was known as the "Old Treasury" and was occupied by Peleg Coffin, state treasurer whose office was in the new State House.

There stood within the memory of many in this audience a 2 story wooden building on the south corner of Cobbler's Court now Harvard Place. Here lived Shubacl Hewes, bonesetter, and possibly a bone breaker, as well,

as he was a constable of the town. Jane Haugh owned the two story wooden house on the south corner of School street recently occupied by Gov<sup>r</sup>. Douglas' shoe store. This property was in the hands of the Haugh family from the earliest days and known two centuries ago as Haugh's Corner.

A mining scheme in Mass. lands had its office at #33, the south corner of Milk and Washington streets, in 1800.

Returning toward Summer Street on the east side, at #37, formerly the livery stable of Calvin White, on his death his widow kept there a boarding house, which by 1800, was the Indian Queen Tavern, kept by Zadock Pomeroy, and later known as the Washington Coffee House.

At #40 lived Col. Benjamin Hitchborn, an eminent lawyer and patriot.

Benjamin Vincent kept at #46 now the northeast corner of Franklin Street a wine shop, the passage was then known as Vincent's Lane. One half the building was standing fifty years ago and occupied by David Clapp, printer.

The numbering of the third section of Washington St., Main or Newbury Street, commenced at Frog Lane, now Boylston Street, and ran northward. The first building of interest was the White Horse Tavern, a large two story wood building with a large barn and shed.

John Avery, the secretary of the Commonwealth, lived in a three story wood building at the corner of Sheafe's Lane, later Avery Street. On the other corner lived Daniel Messin-

ger, President of the Mass. Charitable Mechanic Association, and captain of the Ancients, “Winslow Blues,” &c.

At No. 20, the “Golden Rose,” was Elkanah, the father of Charlotte Cushman, who dispensed perfumery, pomade &c. Next door was the Lamb Tavern, first started here in 1740. It was sometimes the “White Lamb,” though not called the “Black Sheep,” some may have congregated there. In the last century Laban Adams, the father of “Oliver Optic,” had the house hence the present Adams House.

Next north of the Lamb, was the Red Lion Tavern, formerly the Grand Turk, on the site of the Melodeon of the last part of last century.

Back of #37 was the gardens of Capt. James Swan on Tremont Street, afterwards the Washington Gardens.

Jonathan Amory lived on the site of the opening into Temple Place, he did a dry goods business at the sign of the “Horse” at the head of Dock Square.

Isaiah Thomas the printer owned #44 and at 47 lived Edward Sohier from the Island of Jersey.

The south corner of Winter, a two story brick house, with 900 sq. ft., was valued at \$2000 then, and occupied by an apothecary, as in recent years. Shuman’s Corner was owned by the Bethune family, and occupied by Dr. Chas. Jarvis. At #50 Eunice Quincy kept a boardinghouse, she was the daughter-in-law of Judge Edmund Quincy.

John Deming lived on the north of Deming’s court, the passage that now is closed by Jordan Marsh’s store and led

to the Theatre Comique half a century ago. After passing Pond Street, now Bedford Street, we come to #73 at Jarvis Row, later Norfolk Place, here a row of houses had been built by John Jarvis. At #85, Dr. Lemuel Hayward was located.

Samuel Adams, town crier, lived in a two story brick house, #71.

Orange Street, up to 1824 when it became a part of Washington Street, commenced at Dover Street, at the Fortifications, and ran north to Essex Street.

At #1 on the west side, near Dover St. was the West India goods shop of William Brown, and at #9 that of Daniel Carney, and this business was well represented on the Neck, supplying the farmers of New England.

Between these shops were the dwellings and shops of mechanics, with occasionally the dwelling of an old settler, as the large three story wooden dwelling of Capt. Samuel Topliff, at #48 just south of Hollis St.; and that of Hopestill Foster, on the south corner of Hollis Street at #53. Foster was hay weigher, and weighed all well made hay, coming into town, and advertised any loads in the newspapers, containing sticks and stones, and was entitled to  $\frac{2}{3}$  gross sums received. He also cared for the town's bulls.

Just north of Hollis Street, at #58, lived in a large three story wood house, Uriah Cotting. At #60 lived Elijah Dix, on the south corner of Dutch Lane or Orange Court, now Dix Place. While on the south corner of Eliot St. lived the Inches family.

In 1726 Samuel Welles built on the south corner of Frog Lane, a large 2 story wooden dwelling, 58 feet front and 35 feet wide, and nineteen feet stud, — on a lot with a frontage of about 450 feet on Washington and 100 feet on Boylston Street.

Originally this lot a part of the estate of Jacob Eliot, it descended to his daughter Hannah, wife of Theophilus Frary, and he gave it to his daughter, Abigail, wife of Berechiah Arnold, and their daughter Hannah, married Samuel Welles. On this lot was the Boylston market which was moved south eleven feet in 1870.

In the parlor of the house, built in 1726, were four large panels representing the seasons, and in other parts of the room, were landscapes representing the manners and customs of the country. These were by a Flemish artist and on the demolition of the house were preserved.

The house on the Liberty Tree Block site, is a familiar picture to all of us, from an old wood engraving.

Two centuries ago the lane that led to the barn in the rear of this house was known as Mr. Walker's highway, we know it now as Beach Street. A century ago, on the north corner stood the two story wooden house and barn of Benj. Green, a prosperous merchant. On the south corner of Beach Street stood #79 the three story residence of Israel Cook, cooper and gauger, on land formerly the portion of Mehitable, wife of Samuel Lillie, another of the daughters of Theophilus Frary.

Between #81 and #82 flowed the town gutter (which was laid in 1787) into the sea.

A few doors north of Harvard Street was located John Fenno, bucket and hose manufacturer, whose buckets are still preserved in many Boston families.

In a brick and wood dwelling on the north corner of Harvard Street, owned by Sarah Henshaw, lived Commodore Andries. Nathaniel Phillips, apothecary, was on the south corner of Bennett Street.

A few doors to the south was the residence of Arnold Welles, President of the U. S. Bank &c.

A few doors north of Castle St. lived Deacon Thomas Bailey, a collector of Taxes for the town. Next south was Benjamin Thompson, coppersmith, with Thompson's wharf in the rear.

South of Castle Street was the wharf of William Marshall, next came Nathaniel Wales' house, and lumberyard. Benjamin Goddard's Store with Wharf and Barn in the rear, had his residence and chaise house on the south, with the town gutter beyond, separating his estate from that of Perrin May another prominent merchant.

Next came Amasa Davis' house and wharf with lumber yard. Here was his office as Quarter Master General of the militia. Next door Joshua Davis, Inspector of Liquors, was located.

#130 was the house of Benjamin Cobb, just north of his Distill house, and wharf.

A few doors beyond was the house, lumber yard and wharf of Nathaniel Curtis.

Just beyond these were the fortifications. On the other side was the store and house of William Brown #136 whose store on the opposite side of the street was numbered #1 Orange Street.

Washington Street running from Dover Street to the Roxbury line was unnumbered in 1800.

Adjoining the Roxbury line on the west side was an acre and a half, owned by Samuel and Arnold Welles, inherited through the Arnold and Frary families from Jacob Eliot.

Coming north a three story wooden house was occupied by Aaron Willard, whose name is found on many old clocks, preserved in New England, and also on Willard Place nearby.

William Fiske, cabinet maker, had his house barn and shop next and these he sold to John Hawes, and it became the Hawes Fund and known as the Fisk Place.

Next came the "George Tavern" estate which came into the hands of Dr. Jonathan Davis of Roxbury, and after his death we find a bake house was on the estate, which became the property of Isaac P. Davis. A street cut through this land, was known as Davis Street in 1810 and changed to Camden Street in 1826.

Just beyond Davis, northward, was a store owned by Ebenezer Lewis, and a salt shed 60 feet long, which was probably the site of salt works, started previous to 1700.

Just south of the fortifications was the store of Weld and

French, and south of them John D. Williams both well known firms at the present day.

On the east side of Washington street, near Davis, were several houses, the property of William Dall. One of them was occupied by Joshua and Elisha Vose hatters, as a shop, while they lived two doors beyond in a house of Nath'l Curtis. Beyond were several stores and a wharf owned by Amasa Davis. Beyond this was the house of Ebenezer Lewis, previously mentioned on the opposite side of the street.

The most southern lot was that of Thomas Blake on which was his house, and as a tallow chandler, he was agent for a company manufacturing candles. The lot next Roxbury line, on the east side, was the Bull Pasture of the town skirting the street from Hunneman to Northampton Streets. In 1821 it was divided into sixteen lots and sold by the town.

This brings us to Roxbury Gate.

6 July 1824 Washington Street as named in 1789 was extended north to include Orange, Newbury, Marlboro and Cornhill to Dock Square. In 1816 the present Cornhill extended through from Court Street to old Cornhill was named Cheapside and in 1817 Market Street and Market Row. 6 May 1829 it was called Cornhill.

A list of the residents on Washington Street in 1814 is given. The shops were mainly devoted to the sale of goods from the West Indies and groceries. The houses were not numbered.

Residents on Washington Street in 1814. Beginning on the east side at the north end, at Dover Street, and going south to Roxbury.

W <sup>m</sup> Brown	Elijah Williams
W <sup>m</sup> Brown jr.	Mace Tisdale
In Court	James Dorety
	W <sup>m</sup> Hearsey
	Danl Gould
	Ann Billings
	Steph. Lyon
	W <sup>m</sup> Stevens
	Joshua Farrington
	Moses A. Swett
W <sup>m</sup> Dall	Simeon Gilson
W <sup>m</sup> Longhurst	J. Witherlee & Co. foun- dry
Thos. Wightman	Thomas Ayling
Eph. Thayer	Sarah Deverell
W <sup>m</sup> Jackson	Asa Adams
Mary Leeds	Abiel Stevens
Sam'l Andrews	Geo. Talbot
John Perry	Chas. Keith
Thos. Gledhill	John Richardson
Amasa Davis	Bement Ford
James Barry	Jonathan French
In rear	Calvin Lathrop
	Cyrus Howard
	W <sup>m</sup> Riley
	Oliver Fisher
	Nath <sup>l</sup> Perry

Loammi Baldwin	Deacon Joseph Field
Thomas Blake & Co. tallow- chandler shop	Dan'l Weeks
Daniel Weld	Sam'l Washburn
John D. Williams	Deacon W <sup>m</sup> Porter
Isaac Parker	John Carey
James Howe	W <sup>m</sup> Glover
John Collier	Roxbury line

West side returning from Roxbury line going north.

Aaron Willard	James Blake, cabinet maker
Aaron Willard jun. clock shop	shop
Spencer Nolen, clock shop	Geo. Jackson, tallow chan- dler shop
W <sup>m</sup> Fisk	Steph. & Francis Jackson, soap boiling shop
Spencer Nolen	
Mrs. Haswell	Jeremiah Gore, jun.
Mrs. Fields	Jeremiah Bridge
Mrs. Davis	J. D. & M. Williams, wine shop
James Blake	Dan'l Weld & David Dudley, shop
Elijah Bullard	
Sam'l Rumrill	Jesse Drake
Geo. Teel	Hannah Bird
Elisha Wheeler	Israel Mead, jun.
Lewis Lauriad	
Sam'l Curtis	Thos. Ayling, turner's shop

Moses Lewis	Jonathan French & Aaron
Negroes	D. Weld, shop
Mace Tisdale, shop	Eph. Harrington
Elias Cobb	Eliz <sup>h</sup> Farrington
Marlboro Williams & Chas. Keith, painter's shop	Eph. Searles & Geo. Whiting, shop
Jesse Drake, shop	Isaac Vose & Joshua Coates,
John H. Stratton & Anthony Rowe, provision shop	shop Isaac Vose, cabinet maker
Nathan Griggs, shop	Oliver Fisher, shop
Britton Brown	Luther Parker, shop
Elijah Williams & Sam'l Moore, shop	Fortifications at Dover St.

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# ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS

SELECTED FROM THE  
COLLECTIONS OF THE SOCIETY





## ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS

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### SUBSCRIPTION ASSEMBLY.

As it is absolutely necessary that the utmost decorum and propriety should be observed in every polite Assembly; to avoid giving offence, and to prevent confusion, the following

#### RULES AND REGULATIONS

have been agreed to by the Managers and Subscribers, which they request the Company will observe:

1. THE Managers have full power to order and regulate the Assembly.

2. No Gentleman under twenty-one years of age can become a Member of the Assembly; and no Gentleman, inhabitant of the town, and not a Member, or Lady under fifteen years of age, will be admitted.

3. THE tickets to the Subscribers for the Season, will not be transferable; no person will be admitted without producing a ticket.

*The Subscribers are requested to insert the names of the Ladies in their tickets before presenting them.*

4. EACH Subscriber is to pay to the Treasurer THIRTY DOLLARS, previous to receiving his ticket of admission.

5. A STRANGER may be admitted by a Subscriber, with the approbation of two of the Managers, for the *first time* gratis, but at any night after having been introduced, must pay FIVE DOLLARS for a ticket of admission.

6. GENTLEMEN who bring Strangers to the Assembly, will please to introduce them to the Managers, that proper attention may be paid them.

7. EVERY Subscriber who introduces a Stranger, must write his own name on the back of the ticket.

8. THE Assemblies will commence at six o'clock in the evening, and close at one o'clock, invariably.

9. THE Company will draw for their places and partners for the two first Country Dances; and the Ladies' numbers to be their places for the evening. No lady will be entitled to a place without producing her number. If any number be wanting, the place will be given to the Lady producing the next number.

10. THE couple at the top must begin the dance as soon as the couple preceding them have ended the figure, or be obliged to commence the dance in *any* part of the set the Managers may choose to place them.

11. A LADY having called a dance, when it is finished her place is at the bottom of the set.

12. No person, having carried down a dance, will be allowed to sit down, or leave their place, until the dance is finished.

13. No Gentleman will be *admitted* in boots, or *permitted* to dance without gloves.

~~14.~~ *It is recommended that Gentlemen will not appear at the Assembly without shoe buckles, nor without powder.*

14. THE Assemblies will not be postponed in consequence of bad weather.

*CONCERT-HALL, December 6, 1806.*

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#### NEW DIVISION OF WARDS.

THE following is a particular description of the new division of the Wards of the town of BOSTON, established by the Committee, chosen by the town for that purpose, on the 17th day of June 1805, and published by their order.

*Charles Bulfinch, Chairman.*

##### WARD No. 1.

FROM the northerly side of the east end of Charles River Bridge, the north side of Prince-Street, to North-Street; the west side of North-Street to low water mark at Winnesimit ferry, thence westerly and southerly, to the low water mark at the north side of Charles River Bridge.

##### No. 2.

FROM Winnesimit Ferry, east side of North-Street and part of Middle-Street to Proctor's-Lane, north side of Proctor's-

Lane to the Town's Slip, thence to low water mark, turning northerly and westerly by the low water mark to Winnesimit Ferry.

No. 3.

From the south side of the east end of Charles River Bridge, the south side of Prince-Street, Middle-street, west side of Middle-street to Proctor's Lane, south side of Proctor's Lane to the Town's Slip, thence to low water, and southerly by low water mark to a line in the direction of the Mill Creek; said Creek and a line continued westerly in the same direction to the causeway, being the southern boundary.

No. 4.

From the south side of the Mill Creek, the east side of Hanover-Street to Concert-Hall; the north side of Court-Street, including the north side of Pemberton's Hill; the north side of State-street and the Long Wharf, thence northerly including Brimmer's T. to the Mill Creek.

No. 5.

From the Mill Creek, the west side of Hanover-Street to Southack's court, the north side of Southack's court to Bulfinch-Street; the east side of Bulfinch-Street to Bowdoin Square; the north side of Bowdoin Square and Cambridge-Street to Lynde-Street; the east side of Lynde and Leveret-streets, to the causeway; and that part of the Mill Pond south of a line in the direction of the Mill creek to the causeway.

## No. 6.

FROM the causeway, the west sides of Leveret-Street, of Lynde and Hancock-streets to Myrtle-street, the north side of Myrtle street to south Russell-street; the east side of south Russell-street to May-Street; the north side of May-street to the water, thence northerly and easterly following the low water mark to the causeway.

## WARD No. 7.

FROM the west end of May-street, the south side of May-street to south Russell-street; the west side of south Russell-street to Myrtle-street; the south side of Myrtle-street to Hancock-street; the east side of Hancock-street to Cambridge-street; the south side of Cambridge-street, through Bowdoin-Square to Bulfinch-street; the west side of Bulfinch-street to Southack's Court; the south side of Southack's Court to Tremont street; the north side of Tremont-street to Park-street and Beacon-street; the west side of Beacon-street to the water, thence northerly by low water mark to the west end of May-street.

## No. 8.

FROM the Long-wharf, the south sides of State and Court-streets to Tremont-street; the east side of Tremont-street to Broomfield's lane; the north side of Broomfield's lane to

Marlborough-street; the west side of Marlborough-street to Milk-street; the north side of Milk-street to the water, thence by low water mark to Long-wharf.

No. 9.

FROM low water mark the south side of Milk-street to Federal-street; the east side of Federal-street to High-street; the south side of part of High-street to Summer-street; the north side of the east end of Summer-Street to low water mark, thence by low water mark to the line of Milk-street.

No. 10.

FROM the Common, the south side of Bromfield's Lane to Marlborough street; the east side of Marlborough-street to Milk-street; the south side of Milk-street to Federal-street; the west side of Federal-street to High-street; the north sides of High-street, Pond and West-streets, to Common-street; the east side of Common-street to Broomfield's lane.

No. 11.

FROM low water mark at the end of Summer-street the south siders of Pond and West-streets to Common-street; the east side of Common-street to Pleasant-street; the south and the east side of Pleasant street to Eliot-Street; the north side of Eliot-street to Orange-street; the west side of Orange-street to Beach-street; the north side of Beach-street to

Front-street and the water; thence along the low water mark to the line of Summer-street.

## No. 12.

ALL south side of Eliot, to Orange-street; east side of Orange-street to Beach-street; the south side of Beach-street to Front-street and the water, to the southern limits of the town; also to include South Boston.

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THE Selectmen hereby inform their fellow citizens, that in pursuance of a law of this Commonwealth there are posted up at FANEUIL HALL and at the Office of the BOARD of HEALTH, complete copies of the Lists of persons qualified to vote in the choice of Governour, Lt. Governour, Senators and Representatives.

THE Inhabitants are particularly reminded that these Lists are from a *new return* made by the Assessors according to law, and conformable to the new division of Wards; every qualified voter is desired to examine whether his name is inserted in the list of the ward in which he resides; and in case it should be omitted, to apply at the Selectmen's Room, Faneuil-Hall, to have it added, on any day previous to the election, between the hours of 12 and 1.

Gilbert & Dean, Printers, No. 78 State Street.

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A. B. B. S.



Sir, You are hereby notified that at a Regular Meeting of the **ANTI-BELL RINGERING SOCIETY**, held at their room on the evening of the 18th inst. the following gentlemen were unanimously elected officers for the ensuing year, and you will please act and govern yourself accordingly.

Per order,

Dec. 19, 1838.

John Smith, Secretary.

BRIGHAM N. BACON, President-Chancellor, and Lord Keeper of the Society's Conscience.

MOSES WHITNEY, jr., Progenitor, and First Vice-Chancellor.

LYNDE M. WALTER, Second Vice Chancellor, and Promulgator of Judgments.

THOMAS MOORE, Sheriff, Process-bearer, and Fee Receiver.

WILLIAM H. CONANT, Deputy Sheriff, and Gong Strummer.

ELISHA W. DANA, Assayer, and Weigher of all the Gold paid over by the Sheriff.

THOMAS GILL, Solicitor, and Public and Private Prosecutor.

DR. JOSEPH PALMER, Reporter of Prosecutions conducted by the Solicitor.

JOSEPH H. BUCKINGHAM, Advocate, and Special Pleader for Members under Accusation.

JAMES WILSON, Crier of the Chancellor's Court, and Sole Ringer of the Bell without a Clapper.

HART DAVENPORT, Clerk of the Board of Accounts, and Auditor of the Fee Bill.

SAMUEL HATCH, Auctioneer, and sole Seller of Cracked and Confiscated Bells.

JOHN LYON, Interpreter between the Mayor and Aldermen and the A. B. R. Society.

EBEN B. FOSTER, Foreign Correspondent of Bell's Weekly Messenger.

JOHN SMITH, General Secretary and Notifier.

HENRY P. LEWIS, Keeper of the Printed Journal and Approver of Printers Bills.

JAMES BURROUGHS, Perambulator — to do all the Society's Unnecessary Walking.

SAMUEL ATKINS ELIOT, Translator of Bell Songs.

THOMAS WETMORE, Drafter of Anti-Bell Ordinances.

WILLIAM H. SIMMONS, Professor of Bell-octuation.  
ISAAC C. PRAY, jr., Professor of Bell-Lettres.  
DR. WILLIAM A. ALCOTT, Benign Reliever of the Bell-y-ache.  
JONATHAN BOWDITCH, jr., Ringer of Striped Pigs.  
TIMOTHY BRYANT, Guardian of the Exchange Dinner Bell, to prevent the Ringing thereof.  
WM. H. RUSSELL, Informer against Church Bells, providing he ever gets near enough to hear one.  
PATRICK IRLEY, Unhanger of Court Bells, and Squarer of the Triangle.  
CHARLES CRAFT, Breaker of the Prompter's Bell, and Operator on the Double Kettle Drum.  
EBEN W. B. OSGOOD, General Agent for Abstracting Omnibus Bells, and Express Rider.  
EDWARD T. BRIGGS, Bulletinizer of Scissors-Grinders' Bells, and City Ordinance Sentinel.  
WM. B. ENGLISH, Swinger of the Dumb Bells, and quiet Cogitator upon things in general.  
MICHAEL HUGHES, Compresser of Young Belles, and Magnificent Punch Distiller.  
HENRY N. HOOPER, Bell-Metal Annihilator.  
THOMAS B. FEARING, Commissioner on Charity Lecture Bells.  
JEAN CHARLES NOUELLE, Chief Boot Polisher with Bell's Paste Blacking.  
ELIAS EMERY, Chief Butler and Chairman of the Deliberate Committee.  
GEORGE THOMPSON, Chairman of all Meetings of the Society when no member is present.  
BENJAMIN STEVENS, Master-at-Arms.

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*General Committee of Vigilance for the Speedy Suppression of Bells, with Particular Duty Annexed*

DANIEL PARKMAN — of Death-Bells.  
RICHARD G. WAIT — of City School House Bells.  
WILLIAM KNAPP — of Chelsea School House Bell.  
THOMAS TILESTON, jr. — of the Blue-Bells of Scotland, and "elsewhere."  
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BENJ. DAVENPORT — of Chamber Bells.  
BENJ. JOHNSON — of Parlor Bells.  
MILTON HEWES — of Door Bells.  
HARVEY D. PARKER — of Table Bells.  
HENRY B. THAYER — of Sleigh Bells.  
STEPHEN RHOADES — of Bell-hats.  
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CAPT. J. STURGIS — of Fog Bells.  
JAMES W. HALE — of Diving Bells.  
CHARLES GAYLORD — of Cow-Bells and Bell-owing.  
SAMUEL KETTELL — of House of Correction Bells.  
CAPT. GEO. S. JENNINGS — of Ship Bells.  
ROLLIN ABELL — of Doctors' Night Bells.  
HENRY HARRIS — of Bell-Dames.  
GEO. H. SNELLING — of Bell-glasses for Mint Juleps.  
Siwel Ssitnerp Yrnch, Printer.

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## LINES

## ON THE DEATH OF

MR. SHUBAEL BELL,  
*Who died May 30th, 1819.*

---

WHAT talents now are clos'd by *death*,  
A worthy man has lost his breath,  
No art could save, in slumbers rest,  
Had many friends and them he blest.

Intrinsic worth, in him was found,  
By many social ties were bound,  
A kind COMPANION, sooth'd his care,  
And friendship bound the *happy pair*.

In every circle where he mov'd,  
He gain'd respect and was belov'd,  
The county prison was his care,  
The Prisoners lov'd and blest him there.

Humanity dwelt in his heart,  
He of his substance did impart,  
He took delight to help the poor,  
And sent none hungry from his door.

Always in duty, calm, serene,  
In faithful trust has always been,

A generous heart and humble mind,  
That's not in every man we find.

The Courts, the Bench, and Bar, look round,  
That pleasant BELL has lost its sound,  
His good deeds speak, they give him praise,  
For good attendance all his days.

Farewell dear friend, the Angels wait,  
To escort thee through the Heavenly gate,  
The Seraphs shout and sing and say,  
One that's belov'd is here to day.

#### NOTICE

The Subscribers to the Assemblies are informed that the First Assembly will be on Thursday Evening next. The numbers will be distributed at half past 6, and Dancing commence precisely at 7 o'clock.

Wm. Turner, Secr'y.  
(Boston Gazette 8 Dec. 1806).

William Turner was a dancing master at 8 Federal St.

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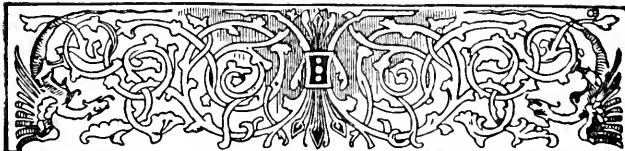


# INDEX

---

- I. INDEX OF NAMES
- II. INDEX OF PLACES AND SUBJECTS





## I. INDEX OF NAMES

Abell, Rollin 137	Bardine, Edward 102
Adams, Asa 124	Barrell, George 24
Laban 118	Barry, James 124
Samuel 40, 119	Bartlett, Thomas 115
Seth 115	Barton, James 70
Sarah 103	
Alcott, Wm. A. 137	Bascom, Henry L. 107
Allen, Frederick B. 67, 68	Bayard, Belthazar 101
Amory, — 30	Mary 101
Jonathan 118	Belcher, Edward 95
Andrews, Samuel 106, 124	Bell, John 10
Andries, Commodore 121	Rachel 10
Angier, John 93	Shubael 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 51, 138
Anne, Queen 100	Bethunes 118
Appleton, Thomas 62	Bigelow, Timothy 105
Arbella, Lady 80, 82	Biggs, John 91
Arnold, — 122	Billings, Ann 124
Abigail 120	Bingham, Caleb 114
Berechiah 120	Bird, Hannah 125
Hannah 120	Isaac 110
Aspinwall, William 92, 93	William 106
Avery, John 117	Blake, James 125
Ayling, Thomas 124, 125	Thomas 123, 125
Babcock, Alpheus 62	Blanchard, Thomas 60
Bacon, Brigham N. 136	Blaney, Aaron 102, 103, 107
Badger, William 62	Blaxton (Blackstone), William 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 90, 94
Bailey, Thomas 121	Bloom, John A. 106
Baker, Thomas 110	Boardman, Benjamin 102
Baldwin, Loammi 28, 125	
Ball, Daniel G. 124	

Bosworth, Zacheus 90  
 Bourne, Garrett 94  
   Mary 101  
   Melatiah 101, 102  
 Bowditch, Jonathan 137  
 Bowdoin, James 101  
   Mary 101  
 Bracket, Thomas 102  
 Brewer, Gardner 8  
   Thomas 8, 9  
 Bridge, Jeremiah 125  
 Briggs, Edward I. 137  
 Bright, George 47  
 Brimmer, Herman 115  
 Brown, Britton 126  
   Enoch 103  
   James 63, 91  
   William 113, 119, 122, 124  
 Bryant, Timothy 137  
 Buckingham, Joseph H. 136  
 Bulfinch, Charles 26, 50, 65, 131  
 Bullard, Elijah 125  
 Burroughs, Elizabeth 55  
   James 136  
 Burton, Robert 9  
 Byles, Mather 42, 46

Carey, John 125  
 Carney, Daniel 119  
 Champlain, Samuel de 69  
 Champney, Benjamin 105  
   Sarah 105  
 Chauncey, Charles 43  
 Checkley, Samuel 42  
 Cheeseborough, William 78  
 Cheverus, John 39  
 Clapp, David 117  
 Clarke, Robert 8  
 Coates, Joshua 126  
 Cobb, Benjamin 121  
   Elias 126

Cochran, Samuel Q. 137  
 Coffin, Peleg 116  
 Colbron (Colburn), William 83, 94,  
   95, 96  
 Cole, Margaret 93  
   Samuel 93  
 Collier, John 125  
 Conant, Wm. H. 136  
 Cook, Israel 120  
 Cooley, Aaron 106, 107  
   Azariah 107  
 Copley, John Singleton 41  
 Cotting, Uriah 31, 44, 45, 64, 119  
 Cotton, John 72  
 Cox, Lemuel 19, 59  
 Craft, Charles 137  
 Crafts, Thomas 115  
 Cranniwell, John 96  
   Richard 96  
 Cromwell, Oliver 97  
 Curtis, Nathaniel 122, 123  
   Samuel 125  
 Cushman, Charlotte 118  
   Elkanah 118  
 Cutler, Timothy 46

Dall, William 123, 124  
 Dana, Elisha W. 136  
 Davenport, Benj. 137  
   Hart 136  
 Davis, Amasa 121, 123, 124  
   Caleb 110, 113  
   Isaac P. 103, 122  
   Jonathan 103, 107, 122, 123  
   Joshua 121  
   Robert 113  
   Sarah 103, 105, 106, 107, 125  
 Dawes, Thomas 19  
 Dearborn, Benjamin 45, 63  
 Deming, John 118  
 Des Forges, M. 105

Deverell, Sarah 124  
Dix, Elijah 119  
Dorety, James 124  
Douglas, W. L. 117  
Drake, Jesse 125, 126  
S. G. 77  
Dudley, David 125  
Joseph 100  
Dwight, John S. 37

Eaton, Amherst 107  
Asa 49  
Nosey 107

Eliot, Asaph 99  
Benjamin 99  
Hannah 120  
Jacob 97, 98, 120, 122  
John 42  
Mary 99

Elliot, Samuel 116  
Samuel Atkins 136

Emery, Elias 137

Endicott, John 79

English, Wm. B. 137

Evans, William 107

Faneuil, Peter 40

Farrington, Elizabeth 126  
Joshua 110, 124

Fearing, Thomas B. 137

Fennell, James 25

Fenno, John 121  
William 106

Field, Joseph 125

Fields, Elizabeth 125

Fisher, Oliver 124, 126

Fiske, William 122

Ford, Bement 124  
Joseph N. 106

Foster, Eben B. 136

Hopestill 119

Foye, Thomas 124  
Franklin, Benjamin 39

Frary, —— 122  
Abigail 120  
Hannah 120  
Mehitable 120  
Theophilus 120

Freeman, Nehemiah 28

French, Jonathan 123, 124, 126

Gardner, Francis 72  
Gideon 102

Gaylord, Charles 137

George, King 101

Gibbons, Henry 112

Gibbs, John 100

Gill, Thomas 136

Gilson, Simeon 124

Gledhill, Thomas 124

Glover, —— 106  
Habakkuk 92  
John 92  
William 125

Goddard, Benjamin 121

Gore, Christopher 23  
Jeremiah 125  
Stephen 124

Gorges, Robert 76, 77

Gould, Daniel 124

Grant, Fidelity 55

Graupner, Gotlieb 105

Green, Benjamin 120  
Isaac 93  
Margaret 93

Griggs, David R. 106, 107  
John 105, 106, 107  
Nathan 126

Güllagher, Christian 51

Hale, James W. 137

Hales, John Groves 7, 18

Hall, John 124	Charles 62
Joshua G. 106	Elna 62
Halyburton, Andrew 102	Hubbard, Tuthill 114
Hammett, William 15, 16, 17, 65	Hudson, Elizabeth 104
Hancock, Ebenezer 116	Frances 70
John 40, 116	William 92
Harding, Robert 91	Hughes, Michael 137
Hardy, William 106	Hutchinson, Ann 94
Harrington, Ephraim 126	Thomas 109
Harris, Henry 137	Inches, —— 119
James 63	Ingraham, William 97
Haskell, Samuel 49	Irlley, Patrick 137
Haswell, Mary Cordis 103, 105, 125	Jackson, Francis 125
Rachel 104	George 125
Robert 105	Stephen 125
Susanna 103, 104	William 124
William 103, 104	Jarvis, Charles 118
Hatch, Jabez 35	John 119
Samuel 136	Jennings, Geo. S. 137
Haugh, Jane 117	Johnson, Arbella 80, 82
Hawes, John 122	Benjamin 137
Hayward, Lemuel 119	Edward 84
Hearsey, William 124	Isaac 80, 81, 82
Henshaw, Sarah 121	Samuel 63
Hewes, Ann 11	Johnston, John 11, 51
Milton 137	Thomas 51
Samuel 11	Josselyn, John 84
Samuel Hill 11	Keayne, Robert 93
Shubacl 116	Keith, Charles 124, 126
Higginson 30	Kettell, Samuel 137
Hitchborn, Benjamin 117	Knapp, Samuel L. 11
Holbrook, Samuel 23	William 137
Holyoke, Elizur 99	Kneeland, Mary 98
Mary 99	Lane, Oliver 52
Hooker, Thomas 44	Langdon, John Walley 7
Hooper, Henry N. 137	Thomas Walley 7
Howard, Cyrus 124	Larkin, Benjamin 114
Howe, James 125	
M. A. De Wolfe 56	
Hoyt, Albert H. 8	

Lathrop, Calvin 124 John 43 Lauriad, Lewis 125 Leadbetter, — 106 Leavett, Josiah 62 Lee, William Raymond 137 Leeds, Mary 124 Lemist, John 105 Lewis, Ebenezer 122, 123 Henry P. 136, 137 Moses 126 Stephen 47 Lillie, Mehitable 120 Samuel 120 Lincoln, Earl of 80, 82 Linnaeus, Charles 38 Longhurst, William 124 Loring, Joseph 115 Lowth, Robert 63 Lyon, John 136 Stephen 124  Marlborough, Earl of 94 Marrett, Thomas 96 Marshall, William 121 Masters, Joanna Smith 10 Matignon, Francis A. 39 Maverick, Rebecca 55 Samuel 76, 77, 84, 89, 90 May, John 111 Perrin 121 Mayhew, Jonathan 42 McClench, John 59 Mead, Israel 124, 125 Mears, Samuel 100, 101 Messinger, Daniel 117 Miles, Samuel 46 Milne, Mr 105 Milom, John 91 Minot, Stephen 99, 100, 101, 110 Montague, William 48	Moore, Benjamin 49 Samuel 126 Thomas 136 Moorhead, John 42 Morse, Moses L. 60 Morton, Thomas 90 Musgrave, Susanna 103  Newell, R. A. 137 Newton, Thomas 100 Nollen, Spencer 125 Norcross, Grenville H. 7 Norden, Samuel 91 Nouelle, Jean Charles 137  Odlin, John 94 Oliver, Peter 97 Optic, Oliver 118 Osgood, Eben W. B. 137 Otis, James 40  Palmer, Joseph 112, 136 Parker, Harvey D. 137 Isaac 125 Luther 126 Samuel 47 Parkman, Daniel 137 Samuel 21, 37 Parmlee, Ashley 107 Payson, Thomas 124 Peasley, Aaron A. 62 Penn, James 94 Penniman, John Ritto 50, 51 Perkins, — 30 Perry, John 124 Nathaniel 124 Phillips, Gillam 110 Margaret 114 Nathaniel 121 Samuel 108, 110 Phipps, William 57
---	---

Pierrepont, Robert 110  
 Pollard, Ann  
   Mrs William 74  
 Pomeroy, Zadock 117  
 Porter, William 125  
 Pray, Isaac C. 137  
 Prescott, Ephraim 115  
 Prince, Thomas 82  
 Quincy, Abraham H. 37, 116  
   Edmund 118  
   Eunice 118  
   Jacob 37  
   Josiah 42  
 Rainsborrow, William 92  
 Ranger, Edmund 98, 100  
 Rawlins, Jasper 96, 112  
 Rea, Daniel 19  
 Read, George 107  
 Rhoades, Stephen 137  
 Richards, Giles 59  
 Richardson, John 124  
   Peter 103  
 Riley, William 124  
 Rogers, Samuel 60  
   Simon 102  
 Rowe, Anthony 126  
 Rowson, Susanna 103, 104, 105  
   William 104, 105  
 Rumford, Count 28  
 Rumrill, Samuel 125  
 Russell, Benjamin 10  
   Calvin S. 137  
   William H. 137  
 Saltonstall, Richard 80  
 Scott, Robert 91  
 Searles, Ephraim 126  
 Sedgwick, Robert 94  
 Sewall, Henry 95  
   Samuel 109  
 Shaffer, George 105  
 Sharpe, Thomas 95  
 Shaw, Charles 9, 58  
 Sherman, James 47  
   Samuel 96  
 Shoare, Sampson 93  
 Shurtleff, Nathaniel B. 42  
 Simmons, William H. 137  
 Simpkins, John 114  
 Smith, John 69, 136  
   Samuel 105  
 Snelling, Geo. H. 137  
 Snow, Caleb 72, 75, 82, 83, 84  
 Sohier, Edward 118  
 Souther, Nathaniel 93  
 Spear, Oliver 8  
 Sprague, Henry H. 57  
 Standish, Myles 69  
 Stevens, Abiel 124  
   Benjamin 137  
   William 124  
 Stevenson, John 79  
   Sarah 79  
 Stillman, Samuel 42  
 Stratton, John H. 126  
 Stuart, Gilbert 40  
 Sturgis, J. 137  
 Sullivan, George 28  
 Swan, James 118  
 Swett, Moses A. 124  
 Talbot, George 124  
 Teel, George 125  
 Temple, Charlotte 104  
 Thacher, Peter O. 107  
 Thayer, Henry B. 137  
   Ephraim 124  
 Thomas, Elizabeth 55  
   Fidelity 55  
   George 55  
   Isaiah 14, 55, 118

John 54, 55	Welles, Arnold 121, 122
Maverick 55	Samuel 120, 122
Moses 55	Wetmore, Thomas 136
Peter 55	Wheeler, Benjamin 112
Rebecca 55	Elisha 125
Thompson, Benjamin 28, 121	Wheelwright, John 91, 93, 95
George 137	White, Calvin 117
Thresher, Francis 100	Whiting, George 126
Tileston, Thomas 137	Whitney, Moses jr 136
Tisdale, Mace 124, 125	Whittemore, Amos W. 59
Tooke, John Horne 63	Whitwell, Samuel 115
Topliff, Samuel 119	Wightman, Thomas 124
Tuckerman, Edward 114	Wignell, Thomas 104
Twining, — 15	Wilbour, Samuel 83, 96
Vane, Harry 93	Willard, Aaron 51, 122, 125
Victoria 104	Williams, Elijah 124, 126
Vincent, Benjamin 117	John D. 123, 125
Von Hagen, Peter A. 105	Marlboro 126
Vose, Elisha 123	Moses 125
Isaac 126	Samuel 103
Joshua 123	Wilson, James 136
Wait, Richard G. 137	John 81, 91
Wales, Nathaniel 121	Winthrop, John 77, 78, 80, 81, 90,
Walker, Robert 95, 96, 120	91, 92, 94, 95
John 100	Robert C. 76
Walter, Lynde M. 136	Witherlee, Joshua 124
William 48, 49, 115	Wood, William 75
Washburn, Samuel 125	Woodward, Ebenezer 104
Washington, George 40	Elizabeth 104
Watkins, Walter K. 11, 87, 89	Rachel 104
Weeks, Daniel 125	Wren, Christopher 64
Weld, Aaron D. 122, 126	Wyman, Joseph 105
Daniel 124, 125	Young, Joshua 11
Giles E. 8	Ziegler, George 107





## II. INDEX OF PLACES AND SUBJECTS

---

Abington, Mass. 104

African Market 114

American Antiquarian Society 7, 8,  
14, 15, 18

Assistants Court 72, 80, 83

Athens 77

Bath, Me. 15

Bermuda 54, 94

Boston, Adams House 118

Almshouse 19, 23

Ames Building 115

Ancient and Honorable Ar-  
tillery Co. 10, 90, 93, 114, 115,  
118

Ann Street 37

Anti-Bellringing Society 136

Athenaeum 58

Atlantic Avenue 35, 45, 74

Auchmuty's Lane 32

Avery Street 117

Back Bay 40, 45, 89

Back Street 42

Bannester's Gardens 77

Baptist Church 21, 42

Barton's Point 19, 70, 71

Barton Street 70

Beach Street 96, 120, 134, 135

Beacon Hill 21, 22, 72, 73, 74,  
75, 90

Beacon Street 23, 25, 27, 45, 77,  
99, 133

Bedford Street 25, 94, 119

Bendell's Cove 89, 92

Bennett Street 121

Blackstone's Point 70, 78

Blackstone's Spring 76

Blaney House 108

Board Alley 38

Board of Health 135

Book of Possessions 93

Book Store 115

Bowdoin Square 37, 132, 133

Bowling Green 100

Boylston Hall 38

Boylston House 107

Boylston Market 38

Boylston Museum 38

Boylston Street 23, 27, 38, 85,  
95, 117, 120

Brattle Street 114

Brimmer's T 132

Broad Street 30, 37, 74

Broad Street Corporation 31

Bromfield's Lane 133, 134

Bromfield Street 92

Bulfinch Street 132, 133  
 Bull Pasture 113, 123  
 Burial Place 82, 111  
 Cambridge Street 21, 57, 70, 132,  
     133  
 Camden Street 122  
 Canal 70  
 Canal Bridge 19  
 Castle Street 95, 110, 121  
 Castle Tavern 101  
 Cathedral 39, 111, 113  
 Causeway 36, 45, 132, 133  
 Causeway Street 74  
 Central Wharf 30  
 Centry Hill Street 91  
 Charles River 18, 23, 24, 34, 36,  
     70, 75, 90  
 Charles River Bridge 18, 19, 36,  
     131, 132  
 Charles River Ferry 70  
 Charles Street 21, 70, 73, 74,  
     90  
 Charter Street 57  
 Chauncey Place 43  
 Chauncey Street 43  
 Cheapside 123  
 Christ Church 8, 9, 11, 46, 48,  
     49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 115  
 Christ Church Cemetery 53  
 Christ Church Sunday School  
     52, 53  
 Church Green 42  
 Church Square 115  
 Circular Walk 38  
 City Hall Annex 98  
 Cobbler's Court 116  
 Cobb's Wharf 121  
 Colbourn's Field 83  
 Cole's Inn 93  
 Colonnade Row 24  
 Commercial Street 45, 70  
 Common 21, 23, 24, 25, 27, 40,  
     73, 76, 92, 96, 134  
 Common Street 23, 134  
 Concert Hall 10, 107, 129, 132  
 Congress Street 60  
 Conservatory of Music 111  
 Copley's House 23  
 Copps Hill 11, 72, 73, 74  
 Cornhill 29, 82, 84, 85, 114, 115,  
     116, 123  
 Cornhill Square 43, 106  
 Cotton Hill 72, 74  
 County Gaol 9, 10  
 Court House 10, 37, 98, 101  
 Court Street 17, 21, 73, 82, 91,  
     98, 115, 123, 132, 133  
 Cove Street 91  
 Craigie's Bridge 19, 20  
 Custom House 105  
 Custom House Street 31  
 Davis Place 122  
 Debtor's Gaol 10  
 Deer Island 112  
 Deming's Court 118  
 Devonshire Street 91  
 Dix Place 119  
 Dock Square 42, 70, 83, 84, 85,  
     92, 98, 102, 116, 118, 123  
 Dorchester Avenue Bridge 35  
 Dover Street 42, 96, 97, 99,  
     106, 110, 113, 114, 119, 122,  
     124, 126  
 Duck Manufactory 95  
 Dutch Lane 119  
 East 69, 76, 77  
 Eliot Street 83, 84, 119, 134, 135  
 Elm Street 92, 101  
 Endicott Street 36  
 Essex Street 32, 57, 94, 97, 119  
 Eustis Wharf 37  
 Exchange Building 90

Exchange Coffee House 7, 8, 25,  
35  
Faneuil Hall 29, 38, 40, 41, 114,  
135  
Faneuil Hall Market 42  
Farm School 57  
Federal Street 105, 134  
Federal Street Church 42  
Federal Street Coffee House 107  
Federal Street Theatre 104  
Female Asylum 57  
Ferry Ways 36  
Fire of 1872 45  
First Church 43, 84, 91, 115  
Fisk Place 122  
Fleet's Register 115  
Fore Street 42  
Fort Hill 38, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74  
Fortifications 42, 108, 109, 110,  
111, 113, 114, 119, 122, 126  
Fort Point 70  
Fox Hill 73  
Franklin Place 38  
Franklin Street 71, 117  
French Church 43  
Frog Lane 23, 38, 95, 117, 119  
Front Street 32, 44, 135  
Gallows 110, 111  
Gallows Bay 111  
Gallows Hill 111  
George's Island 104  
George Tavern 100, 101, 102,  
103, 122  
Glass Manufactory 61  
Gleason's Pictorial 106  
Goddard's Wharf 121  
Golden Candlestick 115  
Golden Rose 118  
Good Samaritan 115  
Governor's Spring 94  
Granary 23  
Grand Turk Tavern 118  
Gray's Ropewalk 39  
Greater 89  
Green, The 81  
Green Dragon Tavern 10  
Green House 114  
Green Store 114  
Guard House 109  
Hancock House 23  
Hancock Street 133  
Hangings 110, 111  
Hanover Street 42, 59, 62, 70,  
71, 98, 132  
Harbor 31, 34, 36, 44, 74, 104  
Harrison Avenue 32  
Harvard Place 116  
Harvard Street 121  
Haugh's Corner 117  
Hawes Fund 122  
Hawley Street 38  
Hay Scales 119  
High Street 83, 134  
Holbrook's School 23  
Hollis Street 105, 119  
Hollis Street Church 42, 105  
Horse, Sign of the 118  
Hudson's Lane 92  
Hudson's Point 70  
Huneman Street 123  
India Street 30, 44, 74  
India Wharf 30, 44  
Indian Queen Tavern 106, 117  
Jarvis Row 119  
Jordan Marsh Co. 118  
Joy Building 43  
Joy Street 73  
Kilby Street 83, 92  
Kings Arms Tavern 102  
King's Chapel 46, 82  
King Street 30, 84  
Lamb's Dam Farm 106

Lamb Tavern 118  
 Latin School 72  
 Lenox Street 106, 107  
 Leverett Street 70, 132, 133  
 Liberty Tree Block 94, 120  
 Lincoln Street 57  
 Line of Defense 97  
 Linnaean Society 38  
 Long Lane 38  
 Long Wharf 44, 74, 132, 133, 134  
 Louisburg Square 21, 71, 72,  
     73, 76  
 Lovell's Island 104  
 Lowell Institute 116  
 Lynde Street 132  
 Main Street 42, 84, 117  
 Malden Street 111  
 Mall 24, 27, 40  
 Market 40, 42, 83, 84  
 Market Row 123  
 Market Square 40  
 Market Street 123  
 Marlboro Chapel 116  
 Marlboro Hotel 116  
 Marlborough Street 38, 85, 106,  
     116, 123, 134  
 Marshall's Wharf 121  
 Masonic Temple 11  
 Massacre 114  
 May Street 133  
 McNeill's Ropewalk 39  
 Melodeon 118  
 Middle Street 42, 62, 101, 131,  
     132  
 Middlesex Canal 36, 37, 61  
 Milk Street 62, 63, 81, 92, 94,  
     106, 116, 117, 134  
 Mill Canal 36  
 Mill Cove 70, 71, 74  
 Mill Creek 36, 37, 132  
 Mill Dam 45  
 Mill Lane 36  
 Mill Pond 36, 89, 132  
 Mill Pond Street 36  
 Mount Vernon 21, 25, 73  
 Mount Vernon Street 21  
 Myrtle Street 133  
 Neck 70, 71, 83, 85, 92, 94, 96,  
     97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 103, 105,  
     106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111,  
     112, 113, 119  
 Negroes 125  
 New 89  
 Newbury Street 38, 85, 117,  
     123  
 New Devonshire Street 91  
 New North Church 10, 42  
 New South Meeting House 37  
 Newspaper Row 84  
 New Washington Street 85  
 Noddles Island 27, 76  
 Norfolk Place 119  
 North Battery 44  
 North End 70, 71, 73, 89, 98  
 North Grove Street 21  
 Northampton Street 123  
 North Market Street 37  
 North Square 42  
 North Street 37, 131  
 Old Brick Church 43, 115  
 Old Corner Book Store 93, 115  
 Old North Meeting House 42  
 Old Powell House 107  
 Old South Church 62, 83, 115  
 Old State House 41, 43, 74, 83,  
     84, 89, 98, 115  
 Orange Street 85, 114, 119, 122,  
     123, 134, 135  
 Parkman Market 21  
 Park Place 23, 25  
 Park Square 70  
 Park Street 133

Pemberton Hill 132  
Pemberton Square 71  
Pest House 20  
Picture of 8, 9  
Pinckney Street 73  
Pitts Lane 60  
Pleasant Street 134  
Pond Street 25, 36, 119, 134  
Prince Street 131, 132  
Prison Lane 98  
Prison Point Bridge 20  
Probate Court 101  
Proctor's Lane 131, 132  
Province House 116  
Province Street 107  
Public Garden 40, 45, 73, 74  
Queen Street 21, 82  
Ram's Head 104  
Red Lion Tavern 118  
Regiment 35  
Rising Sun Tavern 116  
Rogers Building 43, 115  
Roman Catholic Church 39, 111  
Rose and Crown Tavern 110  
Rowe's Lane 25  
Rowe's Wharf 73  
Roxbury 33  
Roxbury Gate 87, 89, 96, 97,  
98, 99, 100, 123  
Russell Street 133  
Salem Street 42  
Salt Works 112, 122  
School Street 38, 81, 82, 85, 94,  
107, 114, 115, 116, 117  
School Street Church 43  
Scollay Square 85  
Sea Street 32, 35  
Sears' Building 115  
Shawmut Avenue 106  
Sheafe's Lane 117  
Ship Street 102  
Shuman's Corner 118  
Siege 109  
Soldiers Monument Hill 75  
Somerset Club 77  
Southac Street 20  
Southack's Court 132, 133  
South Battery 30  
South Bay 89  
South Boston 33, 60, 113, 135  
South Bridge 32, 113  
South Cove 45, 71  
South Ferry 70  
South Margin Street 74  
South Russell Street 133  
South Terminal 35  
Spring Lane 78, 81, 94  
State House 22, 33, 73, 74, 116  
States Prison 37  
State Street 30, 74, 83, 84, 91,  
92, 132, 133  
Stillman Street 42  
St. Stephen's Church 42  
Subscription Assembly 129  
Suffolk Street 106  
Summer Street 35, 85, 92, 117,  
134, 135  
Sun Tavern 102  
Swing Bridge 40  
Temple Place 118  
Temple Street 74  
Theatre Alley 63, 107  
Theatre Comique 119  
Thompson's Island 57  
Thompson's Spa 93  
Thompson's Wharf 121  
Tide Mills 45  
Tontine Crescent 38  
Town Cove 70, 71  
Town Dock 40, 70, 71, 98  
Town Gutter 120  
Town House 41, 98, 110

<p>Town Slip 132      Training Field 79      Treasurer's Offices 41      Treasury 116      Tremont Street 29, 72, 73, 82,          90, 118, 133      Triangular Warehouse 41      Trimountain 72      Trinity Church 46      T Wharf 132      Union Street 92, 115      United States Bank 121      Universalist Church 43      Vincent's Lane 117      Wall Street 74      Wards 131      Washington Coffee House 106,          117      Washington Gardens 118      Washington Hall 107      Washington Hotel 106      Washington House 106      Washington Market 107      Washington Place 38      Washington Street 38, 42, 57,          71, 81, 82, 83, 91, 92, 94, 95,          96, 97, 98, 103, 105, 106, 107,          111, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117,          119, 120, 122, 123, 124      Washington Tavern 106      Watch House 98, 109      Water Street 71, 91, 115      West Cedar Street 20      West Church 42, 57      West End 73, 89, 100      West Hill 21, 72, 73, 76      West Lenox Street 107      West Street 23, 134      White Horse Tavern 117      White Lamb 118      Willard Place 122</p>	<p>Williams Market 114      Windmill 111      Windmill Point 71      Wings Lane 101      Winslow Blues 118      Winter Street 38, 116, 118      Winthrop Square 63      Worcester Place 107      Bostonian Society 7, 26, 68, 89,          107      Brickmaking 96      British Charitable Society 10      Brookline 33, 94, 114      Cambridge, Bay 23, 24      Bridge 20      Court House 20      Ferry 70      Gaol 20      Inman's Farm 20      Lechmere's Point 19      Port 20      Swan Tavern 100      Canada 108      Carding Machines 59, 60      Charlestown 18, 19, 20, 72, 73, 74,          78, 80, 81, 90      Bridge 18, 19, 36      Ferry 70      Chatham, Kent, England 92      Chelmsford 36, 61      Chelsea 90      Chester, England 93      China 115      Cincinnati, O. 8      Columbian Centinel 17, 51, 103      Connecticut 25, 93      Coventry, England 95      Declaration of Independence 115      Delaware River 93      Denmark 101</p>
---	---

Dorchester Heights 27, 32, 33  
Point 27  
Savin Hill 28  
Drama 104, 105  
Dunbar, Scotland 97  
Dutch 93, 114  
Edinburgh 104  
Emmanuel College, Cambridge, England 76  
England 83, 92, 104  
Essex Bridge 19  
Fort Independence 28  
France 112  
Franklin Stoves 37  
French Fleet 108  
French Invasion 109  
General Assembly 100  
German 114  
Grafton, Vt. 37  
Guilsborough, England 95  
Harvard College 9, 24, 94, 101  
Lottery 114  
Hingham 104  
Humane Society 56  
Insane Hospital 24  
Ipswich, Mass. 91  
Ireland 19, 39  
Irish Charitable Society 10  
Jersey, Island of 118  
King Philip's War 97  
Lincolnshire, England 90  
London, England 16, 22, 30, 91, 93, 104  
Lonsdale, R. I. 79  
Loyalists 104  
Malden Bridge 19  
Manchester, Eng. 95  
Massachusetts 8, 22, 59  
Charitable Fire Society 10  
Charitable Mechanic Association 10, 57, 118  
Charitable Society 114  
Chronicle 16  
Colony 80, 82  
Gazette 112  
Indians 69, 97, 98  
Lands 117  
Province 109  
Supreme Court 95  
Mayflower 79  
Medical Journal 24  
Mediterranean 16  
Merrimac River 36  
Mersey, Essex, Eng. 93  
Montgomery, Ala. 9  
Mount Hermon 22  
Mount Taber 22  
Muddy River 94, 97, 98  
Mystic River 34, 69  
Nantasket 104  
Naples, Bay of 24  
Naval Hospital, Chelsea 90  
Newark, N. J. 63  
Newbury, Mass. 95  
New England 119, 122  
Historic-Genealogical Society 8  
New Haven, Conn. 79  
Newport, R. I. 91  
New York 102  
City Hall 22  
Northampton, Eng. 95  
Novels 104  
Palestine 22  
Philadelphia 25, 104

Pilgrims 79	St. Christophers, W. J. 55
Plays 104, 105	St. John, N. B. 46
Plymouth, Mass. 69, 79	St. John's Lodge 11
Portsmouth, Eng. 103	Suffolk, Regiment 10, 35
New Hampshire 49	Swan Tavern, Camb. 101
Providence, R. I. 79	Swedes 93
Rainhill, Lanc., Eng. 92	Turkey 15
Revenue Service 103	Vermont Soapstone 37
Revolution 100, 104, 110, 111, 116	Virginia 91
Rhode Island 77, 93, 94	
Roxbury 75, 83, 92, 95, 96, 101, 102, 107, 108, 114, 122, 123, 124, 125	Washington, D. C. Capitol 22 Patent Office 62
Royal Horse Guards 104	Wessagusset 76
Salem, Mass. 80	West Indies 108, 119, 123
Shawmut 72	Windham (Conn.), Phenix and Herald 52
Ship, Arbella 80	Winnissimet 90
Constitution 95	Ferry 131, 132
Eagle 80	Wollaston, Mass. 90
Havre Packet 15	Woodbridge, Suff., Eng. 96
Money Tax 97	Worcester, Eng. 97
Slave Trade 114	Mass. 7, 15
Smyrna, Turkey 7, 15, 16	



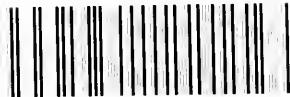








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